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Japan

U.S. Automakers Reject Regular Meeting Proposal

OW2510023895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makuhari, Japan, Oct. 25 KYODO — The "Big Three" U.S. automakers rejected Wednesday [25 October] a proposal by the Japanese auto industry for resumption of regular meetings of industry leaders from the two countries to enhance their dialogue, Japanese industry officials said.

The U.S. industry leaders turned down the proposal during a meeting with their Japanese counterparts here. The U.S. leaders are in Japan to attend the 31st Tokyo Motor Show, which is to officially open Saturday for a 12-day run, according to the officials.

"The meeting, after three and a half years of suspension, ended without specific or concrete agreements," an official of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) said.

The Japan-U.S. meeting was held to take advantage of the "Big Three" leaders' presence in Japan for the big motor trade fair, they said.

The last such meeting was held in Chicago in May 1992.

Representing the U.S. side at the meeting were top executives from the "Big Three" U.S. automakers — John Smith, chief executive officer and president of General Motors Corp., Chrysler Corp. Chairman Robert Eaton and Ford Motor Co.'s Chief Executive Officer Alex Trotman.

From the Japanese side, top officials from five major automakers participated in the meeting, including Masami Iwasaki, JAMA chairman and vice president of Toyota Motor Corp., and Nissan Motor Co. President Yoshifumi Tsuji.

Influence of Alleged CIA Wiretapping Viewed

OW2210150195 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Tadahiko Nasa, editorial board member; from the "Scoop" column: "New Ripples on Japan-U.S. Relations; Difficulty in Making Prompt Judgment on Impact of Alleged Eavesdropping; Recognition of Need of Maintaining Secrecy Urged"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cases of alleged eavesdropping targeting Japan and conducted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have been disclosed one after another. The disclosures have had additional adverse effects on Japan-U.S. relations, already disturbed by the rape of a schoolgirl by U.S. servicemen in Okinawa. This article aims at probing whether the two eavesdropping cases have affected diplomatic negotiations and summit talks and how the Japanese system of diplomatic secrecy has been maintained.

Stages

One case of CIA wiretapping concerns the Japan-U.S. auto talks last June. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the CIA set up a base at a hotel in Geneva, the site of the final talks, and eavesdropped on telephone conversations between Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and other senior Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] officials and with senior leaders of auto industrial circles on the other.

Judging from reports, it can be said that the CIA tapped telephones connecting hotel rooms and those connecting the hotel and the MITI office in Tokyo.

The other case, reported by the U.S. television network NBC, concerns the Japan-U.S. summit held between (then) Prime Minister Morihiro Hosakawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton in February 1994. At that time, former Ambassador to France Shoin Kiuchi was sent as the prime minister's special envoy prior to the summit talks. When Kiuchi made calls from the hotel room to report to Tokyo on the details of his talks with the President, the details of his report were tapped.

What these two alleged cases have in common is that hotels were used as the stage for eavesdropping. Thus, it seems quite possible that hotel personnel did cooperate with the CIA.

The point at issue is whether eavesdropping has influenced negotiations or summit talks. However, both MITI Minister Hashimoto and former Prime Minister Hosokawa have denied there was any influence. Moreover, since no details of the phone conversations have been disclosed, it is impossible to make an immediate judgment on whether there has actually been any influence.

Nevertheless, the eavesdropping must have caused "displeasure" to those concerned (as MITI minister Hashimoto stated.) Certainly it remains questionable whether eavesdropping was necessary, even at the risk of damaging Japan's feelings toward the United States.

Codes

On the other hand, Japan originally had no intelligence organizations like the CIA and has never conducted any such actions as eavesdropping on telephone conversations of foreign missions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] is proud that "it is capable of making out

However, the agent explained: "Despite knowing that there would be this immediate and negative impact, the CIA launched the feint to secretly carry out the far more important economic covert activities. This is a kind of spy game."

Moreover, he also said: Judging from the fact the CIA has been giving detailed lectures to the Clinton administration in the White House every day since CIA Director Deutch took his post this spring, we cannot rule out the possibility that the same administration was directly involved in the recent CIA plan.

However, the same agent said: "I have some doubts about why the CIA ventured to leak the scandal at this time when there are dark clouds, including the rape of a girl in Okinawa and the Daiwa Bank incident, hanging over the Japan and the United States. But there is no doubt that the recent CIA operation was planned before the LOS ANGELES TIMES coverage in July. It is reasonable to think that the operation was carried out without reference to the current situation of the Japan-U.S. relations."

Envoy: Tokyo Not To Ask Front-Line Troop Cut

OW2510025295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0241 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Oct. 24 KYODO — The United States is willing to "adjust" its military presence in Okinawa prefecture, not by cutting troop numbers, but possibly by "consolidating or reconfiguring" its bases there, a U.S. Defense Department spokesman said Tuesday [24 October].

The spokesman, Capt. Michael Doubleday, told a press briefing that this was what U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry had meant when he said Sunday the U.S. was willing to consider proposals by the Japanese Government for the scaling down of U.S. bases in Okinawa.

Perry, speaking in a U.S. television interview, had also said that the U.S. would attempt to "accommodate the concerns of the Okinawans," but had contended that both Washington and Tokyo want to keep U.S. military forces in the prefecture.

Doubleday denied that Perry's statement implied any reduction in U.S. military strength in Okinawa.

He said no final decisions will be made on Japanese suggestions regarding the scaling down of U.S. military bases in Okinawa until after Perry's visit to Japan in late October, adding repeatedly that "the United States has received no proposal on this issue."

Some 75 percent of all U.S. military facilities in Japan are located in Okinawa, and Doubleday acknowledged that the issue of "how widely spread the bases are" is one of major concern to residents.

Residents' protests against the bases have been growing since the rape of a local schoolgirl last month, for which three U.S. servicemen have been indicted.

Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. Takakazu Kuriyama also said at a press conference Tuesday that Japan is not considering asking the U.S. to reduce the number of its front-line troops stationed in Japan.

The U.S. Defense Department said Tuesday that Perry will visit Tokyo between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 for talks with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Defense Agency Director General Seishiro Eto.

Department officials said that, as well as discussion of security issues, the purpose of the visit is to pave the way for a mid-November summit between Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and President Bill Clinton.

Tokyo To Ask 2 U.S. Facilities To Close

OW2510034095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 25 KYODO — The government has decided to make a new request for the United States to close two further U.S. Military facilities in Okinawa prefecture and partly close another, during bilateral negotiations to reduce the U.S. military presence in Okinawa, government sources said Wednesday [25 October].

The two countries have already agreed to 23 separate proposals to consolidate U.S. military facilities in Okinawa.

In the new request, Japan will call for Okuma Rest Center and Awase Communication site to be closed, and the size of Camp Zukeran to be reduced, the sources said.

But the government thinks it would be difficult to achieve the closure of Futemma Air Base and Iejima Auxiliary Airfield, which has been sought strongly by local residents, the sources said.

In the negotiations, Japan will contend that closure of Awase Communication Site is feasible because U.S. Forces are now mostly dependent on satellite communications. In addition, the U.S. will be urged to transfer the recreation facilities of Okuma Rest Center to other bases in Okinawa, the sources said.

The Japanese Government believes it would be difficult to close Camp Zukeran completely because it hosts the

Marine Corps Headquarters, but it will ask the U.S. to merge school facilities inside the camp with the school in the nearby Kadena Base.

Japan will also negotiate the partial closure of the Kadena ammunition store and Makiminato service area, the sources said.

Tokyo has decided to make the new requests in an effort to persuade the residents of Okinawa to accept the presence of U.S. Forces in the prefecture, despite residents' growing protests following the rape of a local elementary schoolgirl in September, for which three U.S. Servicemen have been indicted.

In response to the strength of local feeling, Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota has refused to sign documents necessary to force local landowners to lease land to the U.S. military.

Some 75 percent of all the U.S. military facilities in Japan are located in Okinawa, which accounts for only 0.6 percent of the nation's land area.

Main Points of Draft Security Statement Revealed

OW2510113195 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] revealed on 21 October that the main points of the draft Japan-U.S. joint statement on security, which will be issued after the summit meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on 20 November, have been finalized.

According to the MOFA sources, the statement reconfirms the importance of maintaining the Japan-U.S. security alliance and points out that the bilateral security arrangements are not only important for the security of both countries, but are also "indispensable for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region." The document is characterized by its emphasis on the new role of the security pact as a "tranquilizer" that serves to enhance the sense of security in the region, and its effort to gain the people's understanding of the security treaty.

Japan and the United States will continue work to determine the substantial wording of the statement. However, the rape of an elementary schoolgirl by U.S. soldiers stationed in Okinawa, and the problems in Okinawa that came up in the aftermath of the incident, have cast a dark shadow over the summit. How the document will address the Japanese people's skepticism about the security setup will now be a focal issue.

The draft joint statement runs about five pages in English, which is about the same length as past Japan-U.S. joint declarations. Bureaucrats on both sides have had many discussions, and basically, it was the U.S. side that formulated the document which mainly consists of points both sides had agreed upon.

This document begins with an overview of the international military situation in the Asia and Pacific region. It cites the significance of the bilateral security arrangements in various aspects.

Under the international military situation, the main points are: 1) continuing military tension on the Korean peninsula; 2) factors of uncertainty in the Russian Far East; 3) economic development and sources of conflict in China and East Asia. It explains the continuing turbulence in the strategic environment in post-Cold War Asia and Pacific and emphasizes the critical importance of the U.S. presence for regional order and stability.

Based on the above general concepts, the statement elaborates on the role of the bilateral security alliance after the Cold War: 1) a bilateral alliance complementing Japan's defense capability; 2) contribution to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region; and 3) a strong political basis for promoting bilateral and global cooperation. It highlights its role as a "tranquilizer."

While the United States will maintain the necessary frontal deployment of U.S. forces, Japan commits to continue to share the cost of supporting the U.S. forces under the new special agreement calling for an increase in the Japanese share in the expenditures incurred by U.S. Forces Japan.

The joint statement also touches on the promotion of cooperation in defense technology and in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO).

However, since Prime Minister Murayama intends to bring up the issue of reorganizing and retrenching U.S. military bases on Okinawa, there is concern in the government that "incorporating the bases issue in a declaration reconfirming the importance of the security treaty may undermine the coherence of the document." (according to a government source)

Moreover, since the problems in Okinawa are now in the limelight, it is believed that "there is a need to explain to the people in plain terms the costs and benefits of the security alliance, and the need for security dialogues between Japan and the United States." (according to a senior MOFA official) Therefore, how to render the portions relating to the U.S. bases and the significance of security consultations in the joint statement is likely to be a central issue for further coordination between the two countries.

Sakigake Official on Security Ties With U.S.

OW2510122695 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 3

["Summary" of remarks by Shusei Tanaka, deputy leader of Sakigake [Harbinger Party], at an interview with SANKEI SHIMBUN; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the 50 years since the end of World War II, we have been able to lead a peaceful and safe life thanks to the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] and the Japan-U.S. security alliance. We have to thank the Okinawan people for the great role they have played in this.

The recent rape of a schoolgirl, and the other problems in Okinawa that came to the fore after the incident, including the Okinawan governor's refusal to undertake the proxy signing of land lease documents, again remind us that the Okinawan people did not take such a role of their own free will, but that postwar historical circumstances resulted in the concentration of U.S. bases there.

In that sense, the remarks by former Director General Noboru Hoshuyama of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, which offended the Okinawans, were impertinent. This has negated the national understanding that required long years of conscientious efforts by the SDF to form. I think the people now think twice about the reliability of civilian control. This is extremely unfortunate.

According to the provisions of the Status of Force Agreement [SOFA], if the Japanese authorities arrest an American suspect not on official duty first, it is possible to detain the suspect even before indictment. If the U.S. side claims that the purpose of the SOFA is the protection of suspects and human rights, it would be unreasonable to not allow the turnover of suspects arrested by the Japanese to the U.S. authorities.

Since the Cold War has ended, the Japan-U.S. security setup should also change. Of course, there is also some basis for not wanting any change. However, the Japanese SDF and the bilateral security arrangements are consistently maintained for the sole purpose of self-defense. Furthermore, it must be noted that there are still some remnants of the Cold War in Northeast Asia, as seen in China and North Korea (the DPRK).

From the U.S. viewpoint, the Japan-U.S. security alliance was the frontline or the bridgehead of the free world in the face of the threat from the former Soviet Union. With the end of the Cold War, the U.S. perception has clearly changed. Therefore, the two countries need to consider the new role of the bilateral security setup, and Japan needs to hold a national debate on this. Is it sufficient to explain to the domestic audience that the security pact is necessary for the defense of Japan? This will amount to a "free ride in defense" in the context of the Japan-U.S. relationship and in the international community. The U.S. military presence is indispensable for peace and stability in Asia right now. The United States would also like to continue its presense in Asia for its own economic interests.

For Japan, since it is a fact that there are elements of uncertainty and instability in the situation in Northeast Asia, the most important thing is to enhance economic and social interdependence with our neighboring countries. Furthermore, to create an atmosphere where there can be candid airing of opinions, we need to have a correct historical perception. We should think of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements on this basis.

In the future bilateral security arrangements, Japan needs to take up a different role along with the United States to contribute to peace and stability in Asia, and as a result, enjoy the benefits as a member of the region. It is important to think of how to achieve this transformation. How to gain the Okinawan people's understanding will also be an issue from now on. We need to discuss this seriously.

'Exorbitant' Subsidy for U.S. Forces Criticized

OW2510101595 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 30 Oct 95 P 36

[Article by Shunji Taoka, AERA staff editor: "Foreign Troops Get Exorbitant Subsidy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Permission to have a military base or bases on foreign territory is called "base rights." Usually a country that wants to station its troops in a foreign land secures base rights by providing some kind of assistance. The United States maintained rights to Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base by providing the Philippines with assistance of $480 million a year. The Philippines demanded an increase in the land lease fee, and the United States countered with a proposal to lower it. In November 1992, the U.S. forces withdrew from the Philippines. In other parts of the world, the United States has given assistance to Portugal, Turkey, Spain and others for base rights.

U.S. Demands Continue to Expand

In Japan in the 1950's, too, the United States provided military aid to Japan by lend-leasing a large quantity of equipment to the Self-Defense Forces, gratis. The Vietnam war, however, weakened the U.S. economy and finances, reversing the relationship. The United States asked for financial assistance to maintain its bases in Japan. Shin Kanemaru, then Defense Agency director general, directed that the Defense Facilities Administration Agency pay 6.2 billion yen as part of welfare expenses of Japanese workers on U.S. bases, which should have been borne by the United States in the first place. Article 24 of the Status of Forces Agreement provides that "the United States will bear... [ellipses as published] without cost to Japan all expenditures incident to the maintenance of the U.S. armed forces in Japan," except for compensation to owners of the land and so on that Japan has to provide and pay for. Therefore, no legal basis exists for the disbursement. Pressed by reporters on this point, Kanemaru replied, "It is based on 'omoiyari' [being considerate]." Since that time such expenditures have been called the "omoiyari yosan" [sympathy budget].

After that, the U.S. demands continued to expand, letting Japan pay for construction of soldiers' quarters; utilities, including electricity, gas, and water; and wages for Japanese employees working on military bases. In the latest attempt to negotiate a new special agreement at last, the Japanese side was dumbfounded by the U.S. request that Japan pay for school buses.

The sympathy budget for fiscal 1995 amounts to 271.4 billion yen, bringing the total financial disbursement for the U.S. forces to 475.7 billion yen, including 71.2 billion yen in compensation for privately owned land and another 73.6 billion yen for improvements on the periphery of military bases such as soundproofing homes and school buildings against jet and helicopter noise. All told, Japan is paying 625.7 billion yen, when rent estimated at 150 billion yen for government land used by U.S. troops is added. U.S. expenditures are limited to servicemen's payrolls and training expenses. Japan shoulders more than 70 percent of the expense of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan. It is quite exceptional to pay such an enormous subsidy for foreign troops.

Japanese Generosity Is Extraordinary

The Japanese burden exceeds that borne by other U.S. allies. According to the "Report on Allied Nations' Contribution To Common Defense" that the Pentagon submitted to Congress in May 1994, Japan's direct share of expenses for U.S. forces in 1993 amounted to $3.24 billion, while Germany's share was about $248 million, the Republic of Korea's $197 million, and the United Kingdom's $46 million. No direct share was borne by France, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, or Portugal. Others paid less than $10 million.

The report emphasized Japan's contribution and explained the difficulty of applying the "Japan model" to NATO nations.

The amount Germany paid, as pointed out in the report, included expenses Germany bore for the occupation of Berlin by Allied troops from four nations -- the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and France — since the end of the Second World War. Because these troops withdrew in September 1994, the Defense Agency presumes that the expenses must be drastically decreased these days. Because Japan promised financial assistance to U.S. forces, signing a labor service agreement in 1987 and a special agreement in 1991, the ROK had to sign a similar special agreement in 1991 and has to pay $300 million this fiscal year.

The ROK side was quoted as complaining that "the United States does not comprehend the difference between the economies of Japan and the ROK and insists that the ROK do the same as Japan." "We are troubled by Japan's being too generous."

High-ranking Pentagon officials publicly point to the reduced cost of stationing U.S. troops in Japan, because Japan bears most of the expense. In Europe, where no such subsidies are expected, U.S. forces were reduced from more than 300,000 to a little over 100,000. In Japan, meanwhile, reduction in forces during the past five years was limited to about 10 percent, and the Okinawan people lead their lives surrounded by gigantic chains of U.S. military bases left untouched since Cold War days. It seems that the Japanese Government does not have the same sympathy for the Okinawan people it has for the U.S. forces.

'Column' Criticizes U.S. Flag Burning at Rally

OW2410135895 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 23 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 1

["Tidbits" column by unidentified RYUKYU SHIMPO reporter: "The Okinawan People's Protest Rally"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 21 October Okinawan people's protest rally, in which 85,000 prefectural citizens and people from other prefectures participated, was very impressive. Although I could not actually go to the rally due to desk work, I felt as if I were there by watching television and listening to the radio.

Before Okinawa's reversion to Japan, demonstrations and rallies occupied my school days for a few years. Yogi Park in Naha used to be a sugarcane field of an agricultural experiment station. The field was improved to build the park. Mass rallies, such as prefectural gatherings, were often held at the site, which was flat at that time.

In those days, most rallies were hosted by so-called reformist groups. It is said that the latest protest rally was the first case in which various groups, political parties, and the general citizenry in Okinawa took part.

It might be ironic that the prefectural rally was held at Ginowan Seaside Park, which is not unrelated to the withdrawal of military bases or readjustment and reduction of bases. Around the park are the Convention Center, hotels, a high school, a police station, and other facilities. The area, which was just a huge open space when it was returned to Okinawa by U.S. Forces, has now become well-developed streets. The area has been reborn in projects to utilize lots that were occupied by U.S. military facilities.

The prefectural bus association's free pass service is also admirable. Buses that arrived at a bus stop near the rally site around opening time were packed with people. One of the reporters at the site found no words to say after saying: "What a rally it is!"

The only thing regrettable is an incident in which a Stars and Stripes flag was burned. A woman in a Hanshin Tigers [an Osaka baseball team] coat ran up to the podium immediately after the rally, and tried to burn a U.S. flag, tearing herself away from people trying to stop her. Later, she explained: "I did that, fully aware I would invite a storm of criticism." Prefectural Assembly Speaker Chiken Kakazu, who stopped her, expressed his anger, saying: "The performance was done when the rally was coming to a climax. That is an unforgivable act that could have thrown a wet blanket on the rally."

It is only natural that Speaker Kakazu was furious. It was just a silly performance that showed no seriousness. Burning a U.S. flag does not solve the issue.

Local Paper Reviews Mass Rally

OW2510122995 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 22 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "How Does the Government Take Okinawa's Anger?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Mass Rally Under People's Unity**

More than 80,000 people at a mass rally is a considerable number.

A mass rally was held in Ginowan City yesterday with the aim of appealing to the world for Okinawa's demands, beginning with the alleged rape case involving U.S. servicemen. The Ginowan Seaside Park, where the rally was held, was filled to overflowing. People were still flocking to the rally as Ginowan Mayor Tobaru was giving closing remarks, despite the fact that the rally was drawing to a close after the adoption of a protest resolution.

People from all walks of life, regardless of age or sex, took part in the rally: proprietors, labor union members, members of all political parties, those who advocate the total removal of military bases and the abolition of the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA] and security arrangements, and those who accept the current security arrangements while calling for a scaling down of military bases united as one.

It was the first rally where the Okinawan people expressed their will for Okinawa's future since a 1956 mass gathering called the "Cross-Island Struggle," which was aimed at "implementing the four principles for protecting land."

For nearly 40 years, Okinawan people confronted each other because of conflicting interests and ideological conflict, despite the fact that they basically shared the view of "seeking to make Okinawa peaceful and rich."

There was conflict among the Okinawan people under the U.S. administration, when the reversion to Japan drew near, and also after the reversion.

However, now we wonder why they have united with each other despite their own viewpoints.

A protest resolution was adopted at the rally. In the beginning, the resolution expressed Okinawan residents' indignation over the assault of a young girl by U.S. servicemen, noting that people drew together to share their grief for the victim and others affected by the tragedy and their strong resentment towards those responsible for the incident.

The resolution called for "the enforcement of military discipline and the eradication of crimes committed by U.S. military personnel," "an immediate apology and complete compensation for the victim," "the immediate reversion [as published] of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement" [SOFA], and "the promotion of the reduction and realignment of U.S. military bases on Okinawa." These demands represent the majority view of the Okinawan people. The resolution strongly criticized both the Japanese and U.S. Governments. In particular, it criticized the Japanese Government for having resorted to "weak-kneed diplomacy" after the rape case occurred.

In his speech, Governor Ota said: "For the past 50 years, the Okinawan people have been forced to cooperate in carrying out base policies, and, because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the war's end, I would like to change Okinawa's policy." He added: "It is the U.S. and the Japanese Governments' turn to cooperate with us." In this way, the governor explained how he has come to refuse to sign documents forcing landowners to renew land leases.

Those who have been forced to put up with the military bases for economic reasons and those who have been impatient with the military bases and have persistently called for their removal have come to share the view that "we are tired of them, and we no longer need them."

Moreover, regarding the actions taken by the two governments after the rape case, the participants expressed their distrust of the two governments, because what the two administrations have done is not to revise the SOFA itself, but simply to improve SOFA operational procedures, which stipulate that suspects will be handed over to Japan after indictment.

We would like both the Japanese and U.S. Governments, as well as citizens of the two nations, to recognize such feelings of the Okinawan people.

Unified Opinions of Okinawa's Residents

The demands stated in the protest resolution are moderate. There are higher demands among the Okinawan people, including those who could not attend the rally.

Women vented their wrath about the assault that trampled the dignity of a girl of tender age, and they made concrete and effective protests against the crime.

Looking back on history, we find that Okinawa's postwar history began with the spread of disease and hunger, and that the Okinawan people were forced to face sexual violence by U.S. servicemen and fight the fear of possible violence. Sexual crimes occurred during the war and were repeated even under the U.S. occupation.

When Japan invaded and occupied its neighbors, the people of the neighboring countries suffered such sexual violence. It has been disclosed that sexual violence is being reported now in strife-torn regions.

From the women's standpoint of protecting peace and human rights, it can be said that a call to enforce military discipline is too moderate and that the removal of military bases is needed.

The explosion of women's accumulated anger has led to the uniting of the Okinawan people's opinions on military bases. We should not forget that after the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, a movement to refuse to sign land lease contracts was started among landowners, who were forced to provide their land for military use and to basically live on land rental fees, and that they have continued to keep the torch of the anti base movement burning.

During the course of such movements, many landowners left the movement. However, the remaining landowners have continued to warn against putting up with the military bases and against dealing with them in a pragmatic way. History proves that the current minority landowners will be the majority group some day.

Seeking the Way To Self-Reliance Is the First Step

Can Okinawa only be valued in terms of permanent military bases? Following the war, Okinawa was forced to have military bases without its agreement, and Okinawa's status has been discussed only in terms of its importance for military bases. Does Okinawa have to continue to make history where its fate is decided by others, irrespective of the will of its people?

Looking into the background of the mass rally, in which so many people participated, we can see the people's anxiety about Okinawa's future and their desire to seek self-reliance.

Although Okinawa's reversion to Japan was the Okinawan people's first choice, the situation has essentially remained unchanged.

In short, Okinawan residents' anger is deep-rooted, even if military bases are reduced and the SOFA comes under review. We would like to see how the government will handle Okinawa's anger.

Editorial on Okinawan Protest Rally

OW2510061795 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 22 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "A General Explosion of the Okinawan People's Anger: The Japanese and U.S. Governments Should Face the Problem Squarely"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 85,000 people participated.

The Japanese and U.S. Governments should see clearly the number of participants in the "Okinawan People's General Rally To Protest the Rape of a Schoolgirl by U.S. Soldiers and To Demand the Review of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]" held at the Ginowan Seaside Park on 21 October. They should also take into consideration the number of participants in the solidarity rallies held outside the main island of Okinawa — in Miyako, Yaeyama, and in other prefectures.

Above all, they should realize that the biggest protest rally by the Okinawan people since the reversion to Japanese administration was held to give expression to nonpartisan indignation of the 1.2 million people of Okinawa prefecture over the violation of basic human rights that is way beyond the limit of the Okinawans' patience and tolerance, and over the heavy burden and damages brought about by the military bases.

Notable political struggles in the postwar period that involved the entire prefecture include the struggles over the land issue and reversion to Japan. However, the rally yesterday saw the consolidation of even greater energy in that it was a truly "cross island" struggle transcending the boundaries of ideology, creed, and political parties.

The Japanese and U.S. Governments should understand the significance of the Okinawan people's uniting as one and expressing their anger in one voice. What we would like to tell the government in particular is: Regardless of the importance of maintaining Japan-U.S. friendship and the bilateral security treaty, and of the requirements of peace in the Far East and Asia, a country that is built on discrimination against, and the sacrifices of 1.2 million of its people in a specific area cannot be called a democratic state, to say the least.

The basic difference between democracy and totalitarianism is the former's upholding of "individual" dignity and the respect for such dignity. We hope the U.S. Government will also go back to the basics of democracy.

Widespread Understanding of the Base Issue

At the beginning of the rally, Chiken Kakazu, chairman of the protest rally's organizing committee (and speaker of the Prefectural Assembly), stated that the rape of a schoolgirl on 4 September "was a shocking incident of trampling on the Okinawans' human rights, and even their dignity." He also said: "Whenever an incident or accident occurred in the past, no matter how many times we protested, and how many times we adopted statements, they have always been treated as Okinawa Prefecture's business, as local incidents." "The national government does not feel what Okinawans feel, nor does it understand our anguish and pain. We have always come against the formidable wall of the national government and the U.S. military, and have been disappointed."

The pleas for help from Okinawa, which moans under the heavy burden of large U.S. bases 50 years after the end of World War II, and where even basic human rights, including the right to live, are being threatened due to the presence of these bases, have always been pushed aside by the U.S. military, the U.S. Government, and even our very own government. Thus, our sufferings over the years erupted in the form of the fury of all Okinawan people in the aftermath of the rape incident.

At first, certain mass media on the Japanese mainland argued that this incident should not be linked to the bases, or to the security treaty. The government also attempted to solve the problem with piecemeal measures, such as improving the enforcement of SOFA, solving the three pending base issues — which have already been agreed upon — and "implementing commitments" regarding a list of 10 items affecting eight facilities. They were probably either overly ignorant about the situation of the bases on Okinawa, or were pretending to be ignorant. This was probably not only true of the government; not many Japanese people understood how the Okinawans feel and few showed any sympathy.

Fortunately, this incident aroused the attention of the mainland mass media. Many local governments and democratic groups all over the country extended their heartwarming solidarity and assistance to Okinawa. What is most heartening is the now widespread recognition that the presence of large U.S. military bases is the real culprit that has been violating the Okinawans' basic human rights and threatening Okinawa for half a century.

We hope understanding of Okinawa, and the perception of the problem of Okinawa as a "problem for Japan" will continue to gain wider acceptance in order for Japan to achieve true democracy and to create the conditions for the voice of the Okinawan people to be heard by the national government.

A Solution Reflecting the Okinawans' Sentiments

The Okinawan people's protest rally passed a protest resolution and demanded the following: 1) stricter discipline for U.S. servicemen and decisive measures to eradicate crimes; 2) apology and full compensation to the victim of the rape incident; 3) early review of SOFA; and 4) promotion of reorganization and consolidation of U.S. bases.

"May heart of Okinawa reach to people of the world." The Okinawans adopted this appeal in the name of people's mass rally. It continues to say, "Heart of Okinawa is a construction of peaceful Okinawa without weapons and our wish that the world will be funded in the same way." Therefore, from Okinawans' viewpoint, these four are minimum demands as a result of compromise. As Rally Committee Chairman Kakazu emphasized, the Japanese Government should negotiate with the U.S. Government by taking the appeal seriously as an important proposition of the national policy.

While delivering a speech, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota, who had just returned from the Okinawa-Fujian summit in China's Fujian province, looked back over four of his U.S. trips and the Japanese Government's reaction to his call for solution of the base problems. "Okinawa has so far been cooperative. It is now the Japanese and the U.S. governments' turn to be cooperative. Otherwise, they will not have what they enjoyed up until now." Ota said that this message has been conveyed to the two governments. However, his statement should not be taken as a "threat" from a governor who does not pay respect to Japan-U.S. relations. Kenichi Inamine, chairman of the Okinawa prefectural business association, stated his determination of cooperation before the rally: "I will make my efforts to solve the base problem under the leadership of the governor and the Okinawa assembly speaker." What is strongly indicated here is that Ota's statement must be considered a collective will of the Okinawan people that transcend different political beliefs.

Some speculate the base problems will be finally settled at the Japan-U.S. summit in November. Considering the eruption of "cross island" anger and energy at the mass rally, it is certain that the Okinawans will no longer accept solutions that do not respect their feelings, to say the least.

Editorial on Perry Remarks on Okinawa Bases

OW2510132395 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 24 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "The Japanese Government Is At a Distance — Reflection on Secretary Perry's Remarks Demanded"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the issue of realigning and consolidating U.S. military bases on Okinawa, it has been reported that U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry stated on an NBC television program on 22 October: "Any proposals that the Japanese Government makes will be taken into consideration." It seems that if Japan should make any proposals, including ones to reduce the bases, Washington will be ready to study them. However, he also reportedly said that "so far no requests for a base reduction have been made by the Japanese side."

Priority should be given to the interests of the United States, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and maintenance of military bases, rather than to the interests of residents of Okinawa Prefecture. This is the position taken by the government so far, however the Okinawan people are not so ignorant or insensitive as to be unaware of such a government position. Governor Masahide Ota visited the United States four times to present "direct petitions." However, the U.S. side persuaded him that "he should go to Tokyo first before making an appeal to the United States."

Thus, it was a high-ranking U.S. official — what is more, the top official in charge of base-related issues — who made remarks to clearly attest to the fact that the Japanese Government takes the position of "paying no attention to the Okinawan people." As a result, we cannot help but ask ourselves these questions: "Is Okinawa part of Japan? Are Okinawan people truly regarded as Japanese?"

Moreover, Secretary Perry stated: "We will do whatever we can to dispel apprehensions among the Okinawan people." Perry also indicated that he might stop in Okinawa during his visit to Japan next week. Now that Secretary Perry has pointed out the "Okinawa" issue as a prominent problem, it is the Japanese Government's turn to respond. Will the government make "any proposals" to the United States? We would like to watch developments from Okinawa.

Not Much Difference in the Coalition Administration

Six years ago, the Cold War that had seriously affected the international order was brought to an end. In Japan, the 1955 regime — which was in large part the one-party domination of politics by the Liberal Democratic Party — was brought to an end. With the start of the era of coalition administration, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], which used to show an understanding of Okinawan issues, has become part of the administration. Therefore, the Okinawan people came to cherish the expectation that the heavy burden imposed by the military bases would be reduced somewhat. When the Murayama administration was inaugurated in June 1994 under the leadership of the SDPJ, local people started having greater expectations. Yet, the government has been observed to make almost no changes in its policy toward and position on Okinawa.

Aside from domestic issues, Okinawa has been regarded as the "keystone" of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and as the U.S. military's "keystone" in Asia. Regarding Okinawa, the Japanese Government has shifted its basic policies of "attaching the greatest importance to Japan-U.S. relations" and "maintaining the security arrangement" to some extent. Yet, on the contrary, it seems that the same amount of retrogression can also be noted in its position on issues related to military bases on Okinawa. Such retrogression is not noted in the SDPJ alone. With the start of the administration headed by the SDPJ, retrogression has become more extensively "recognized" than ever before as the government's own position.

As the retrogression has been noted, voices of opposition have been relayed to Tokyo. However, no heed has been taken.

It should be realized that the 21 October people's protest rally was meant to denounce the government's position toward "Okinawa," which has remained unchanged even after the establishment of the coalition administration two and one-half years ago.

On 15 May 1992, a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion was held in Tokyo under the government's sponsorship. Kiichi Miyazawa, who was prime minister at the time, defined the "Okinawa reversion" as "proof that both Japan and the United States are ready to share the determination for safeguarding freedom and ensuring peace." However, Takezo Shimoda, former ambassador to the United States, writes in "Retrospections and Okinawa's Reversion" (published in RYUKYU SHIMPO in 1992): "President Nixon considered and compared the military interests with the interest of not provoking antipathy among the Japanese people. The fact is that as a result, he gave priority to the latter alternative (Okinawa's reversion)."

In his explanation, Shimoda said that growing demands for the return of Okinawa and for its reversion, voiced by both the Okinawan and the Japanese people, led to the president's decision. Vice President Quayle's speech at the 1992 ceremony seemed to endorse this explanation. However, the voices of neither the Okinawan people nor the Japanese people were noticed in the greetings by then Prime Minister Miyazawa.

In the greetings by representatives of the Japanese and U.S. Governments at the ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the reversion, and also in Secretary Perry's recent remarks, we cannot help but notice the difference in "sensitivity [kando]" to public opinion between the Japanese and U.S. Governments. Adhering strictly to the policy of maintaining both the "security treaty" and the "military bases on Okinawa," the Japanese Government has an attitude of turning its back on the Okinawan people, but we hope that such an approach will be abandoned. Now is the time for the U.S. side to listen to the voice of the Okinawan people.

Attention Should Be Paid to the Essence of Base-Related Issues

It is our strong hope that in settling current problems, the government's concerned cabinet members, including Prime Minister Murayama, will form a clear view of the essence of these problems. It can be said that the rape of a schoolgirl by U.S. servicemen has exacerbated the recent problem. Then Governor Ota refused to sign documents needed for enforced use of land for military bases by proxy, and a protest rally by prefectural residents was held on 21 October. However, it should be affirmed that as their "consensus," the Okinawa people have pointed to the continued and extensive existence of U.S. military bases in the more than half a century since the end of the war as the chief cause of all the problems in Okinawa. Both the rape of a school girl and the governor's rejection of signing documents by proxy are problems that have derived from the existence of military bases. Therefore, it is no exaggeration to say that any measures not aimed at settling the "base" issue itself will be tantamount to "tricks."

The Okinawan people will never accept any measures not aimed at settling the core issue connected to the "military bases." This consensus of the Okinawan people was formed at the people's protest rally. Governor Ota has reiterated that his refusal to sign the documents by proxy is not a "conditional struggle." His determination is supported by nothing but the voices of the Okinawan people who have focused their attention on the "military bases."

In connection with Secretary Perry's remarks, a KYODO dispatch from Washington also reports that his remarks can be interpreted as indicating that "the Japanese Government will make no requests for base reduction." If so, the Japanese Government must have been considered a fairly easy government to deal with. This must have resulted from the fact that Japan has always adopted its diplomatic policy by following the United States. However, we hope that the government will pledge the honor of a sovereign nation not to meet its "expectations" this time.

Trade Insurance To Cover Mitsui's Russian Deal

OW2010044895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0322 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 20 KYODO — The government will apply trade insurance to trading giant Mitsui and Co.'s $700 million deal to export crude oil production equipment to Russia, resuming such coverage to the former Soviet republic for the first time in three years, Mitsui announced Friday [20 October].

It will be one of the largest trade insurance contracts to cover a Japanese deal with Russia, officials said.

Trade insurance, which protects Japanese firms from losses in large trade deals, has been suspended with Russia due to internal turmoil there in recent years.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will apply trade insurance to Mitsui's contract to export oil pumps, pipes and other equipment, with technical help, to Lukoil, one of Russia's largest oil companies, the officials said.

The deal is designed to boost crude oil production in three oil fields in western Siberia by 29 million tons over a seven-year period, the officials said.

Survey Team Sees No Problem in Golan Mission

OW2310103495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0950 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO — A governmental survey team said Monday [23 October] it has found no problem in Japan's plan to send a peacekeeping mission to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

A member of the panel, Yasunari Ito from the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters of the prime minister's office, conveyed the report to Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka, government officials said.

The fact-finding group visited the area on the southwestern border of Syria, Israel and Lebanon earlier this month. It gathered technical and practical information, and examined duties, facilities and hygiene conditions related to the Japanese plan to have a self-defense forces transport contingent join the Syria-based UN disengagement observer force.

The peace headquarters, which said it has obtained almost enough information on the project, will speed up its study of details of the plan so that the cabinet can endorse the program by the end of this year.

In late February, some 45 Japanese troops will take over the duties of a Canadian unit in the Golan Heights, carrying out such tasks as transporting food and other supplies.

Weapons-Firing Practice Eyed for Peacekeepers

OW2410122395 Tokyo KYODO in English
1147 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO — Members of a Japanese peacekeeping mission to be sent to the Israeli-held Golan Heights will be required to conduct shooting drills two or three times a year to maintain their skills, the government's top spokesman has been told.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka received the report from a government survey team that visited the areas on the southwestern border of Syria, Israel and Lebanon earlier this month, government sources said Tuesday [24 October].

The survey team told Nosaka that Self-Defense Forces personnel on the peacekeeping mission are required to carry weapons for self-defense and to maintain shooting skills to carry out their mission, the sources said.

"What kinds of weapons our peacekeeping mission should carry must be decided upon based on these points," the survey team was quoted as telling Nosaka.

Some 45 Japanese troops are slated to take over the transport duties of an outgoing Canadian unit in the Golan Heights in late February, carrying out such tasks as transporting food and supplies, other than ammunition, and armed personnel dispatched from other countries.

According to the survey team, members of the Canadian unit are generally equipped with pistols and machine guns, but they do not carry firearms during their transport duties.

Airlines Expanding Tie-Ups With Asian Partners

OW2310100895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0558 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO — Japanese commercial airlines are trying to expand their services in Asia and cut costs at the same time by collaborating with Asian partners.

Japan Air System has started offering flights three times a week between Kansai International Airport and Guangzhou, southern China, in partnership with China Southern Airlines.

Under the arrangements, the airlines will exchange cabin attendants and customers will be able to book flights through either airline.

Japan Airlines said it will begin a new route between Fukuoka, southern Japan, and Bangkok in joint operation with Thai Airways International later this month. Such flights will run three times a week.

Under the agreement, Thai Airways aircraft will be used and Japan Airlines will be allotted half of the seating capacity.

The two airlines are already operating daily flights between Kansai International Airport and Bangkok under a similar agreement.

The partnership permits the airlines to double the frequency of flights on the route.

All Nippon Airways said it will study joint operations with Asian airlines in the future.

Japan Air System said it plans to resume service in about two years between Singapore and new Tokyo International Airport at Narita, just outside Tokyo, in partnership with Singapore Airlines.

China's Agenda Behind APEC Participation Viewed

OW2510005895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0011 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Third in a series of articles on the upcoming APEC talks in Osaka by Robert J. Saiget: "China Enjoying APEC, Without the Liberalization"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, Oct. 25 KYODO — China has welcomed participation in almost all international organizations since the 1970s, when it awoke from nearly 25 years of self-imposed isolation, and its participation in the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum has been no different.

Not only has APEC given China a forum in which to showcase its rapid economic development and expand economic and trade dialogue in the region, but it has also placed China's President Jiang Zemin squarely in a prestigious international setting, reminiscent of the powerful summits of the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Few international gatherings, with the exception of United Nations' summits, have given Chinese leaders a platform to stand both before the world and a Chinese audience as they attempt to project the authority inspired by China's traditional sense of the mandate of heaven.

Jiang's participation in the first APEC informal leaders' summit in Seattle in 1993 was a near godsend for the man. He had been chosen by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to be China's next communist leader only days before the Chinese Army crushed unarmed student protesters in Tiananmen square in 1989.

At that time, China's propaganda minders were still in a funk over how to overcome the universal condemnation and international scorn that followed the quelling of the protests. They had a heyday publicizing Jiang's presence in Seattle, where he discussed human rights in the home of an ordinary U.S. family, visited the Boeing plant and hobnobbed with world leaders.

Last year at the informal summit in Bogor, Indonesia, China's huge television audience was given further ample coverage of their new leader as he sat and strolled with regional leaders, all decked out in colorful matching Indonesian silk shirts.

At the Bogor summit, Jiang put forward five basic principles which china hoped APEC member economies would observe, and proposed an APEC committee for the exchange of science and technology, which met for the first time in Beijing in October.

Although the five principles — calling for consensus building, gradual progress, nonexclusion, mutual benefit and common prosperity between all members — do little to specifically promote trade and investment liberalization in the region, the importance that China's media controllers attach to the APEC proceedings should not be discounted too much.

However, for China's economic and trade officials, eager to see what kinds of benefits can be extracted from APEC, the informal setting offers a good environment to discuss trade and investment liberalization, and China's further integration into both regional and global markets.

"China supports economic cooperation among APEC member economies, we have actively been involved in consultations and will continue to promote economic growth and the common prosperity of all members," Li Enheng, vice director of the International Trade and Economic Affairs Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), said in a recent interview.

Li, however, was careful to point out China's insistence that APEC take on the principles of nondiscriminatory treatment between members, sensitivity toward national diversity and flexibility in implementing consensus decisions.

"In Osaka, we hope the leaders will adopt an action agenda for the implementation of the Bogor Declaration in a balanced manner taking in the interests and concerns of all member economies," Li said.

"The action agenda should fully respect the diversity of member economies, make accommodations for the economic development of each member and take into account the special difficulties of each member," he said.

Li, who has been involved in drafting the action agenda, said the main course for liberalization should be "unilateral and voluntary actions," while collective actions are acceptable if "based on consensus."

"We do not reject any review mechanism," but "we should not make any legally binding decisions," he said.

"The 'concerted unilateral approach' agreed to at Fukuoka in early February this year is still the model for operation at APEC," Li said.

Concerning the APEC row over agriculture, Li said he did not view Japan's desire to exclude agriculture from trade liberalization as a departure from the comprehensive APEC liberalization process.

"We all believe that courage for liberalization should be comprehensive, however there should be some flexibility for each and every possible member economy. So that's their (Japan's) own decision as to which sector and to what product they should reserve a certain extent of flexibility. That's my understanding," he said.

Wang Shichun, also of MOFTEC, agreed. "We are not putting the agricultural question outside of the liberalization targets, the liberalization targets are comprehensive, but we want to see flexibility on the agricultural issues," he said.

Wang said he was concerned that the agricultural issue might prevent this year's APEC summit from reaching a consensus on the action agenda. Such an outcome would underline the importance that some governments place on the agricultural question, he said.

"Up to 80 percent of China's population is involved in agriculture," Wang said. "At a recent (Communist) Party meeting, they made agriculture the number one sector, so you know how cautious my government is on agriculture."

He said that although China backed the position of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan on the agricultural issue, they were not allies. Rather, he said, China was merely safeguarding its own interests.

"If someone adjusted their position, I'm not sure China would be able to take drastic measures like others may do," he said. That was a reference to the possibility that Japan, fearing the issue might affect the outcome of the meeting, will cave in to demands from the United States, Canada and Australia.

"The objective is common prosperity and common economic development. If you do something that could harm your national economic development, I think that would be contrary to the Bogor Declaration," Wang said.

APEC Envoy Downplays Seriousness of Farm Issue

OW2510104795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0951 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 25 KYODO — Hiromoto Seki, Japanese ambassador in charge of affairs related to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Wednesday [25 October] played down the seriousness of the APEC feud over agriculture.

"I can't fully support the argument that APEC talks would become meaningless if the farm issue is not settled," Seki told a news conference sponsored by the Japan National Press Club.

Japan, China, South Korea and Taiwan want special consideration given for so-called "sensitive sectors" like agriculture in the enforcement of APEC's "comprehensive" trade principle.

But 14 other APEC members, especially the United States and Australia, are rejecting such a demand, saying all industrial sectors should be subject to the principle without any exception.

Seki, co-chairman of this year's APEC round hosted by Japan, said Japan is not saying comprehensive trade liberalization is the wrong idea.

"We are not seeking exceptional treatment for agriculture but we are saying some special treatment is needed for sensitive sectors," he said.

Seki also said Japan is not rejecting farm trade liberalization, citing partial rice market opening and other farm trade accords under the Uruguay Round.

"Japan is overly accused that it is having its own way in APEC," Seki said.

Japan is coordinating the conflicting views among APEC members over agriculture and other pending issues ahead of the Nov. 19 APEC informal summit in Osaka.

Seki underscored the need for reporters and other APEC observers to pay more attention to other aspects of APEC, such as economic cooperation among APEC members.

"It is necessary to focus more on such areas as the environment, global food problems and population," he said.

APEC topics of discussion mainly consist of three pillars — trade and investment liberalization, facilitation and the less contentious economic cooperation.

A broad agreement was reached in the APEC high-level meeting in Tokyo earlier this month over action guidelines on economic cooperation. The guideline will be formalized at the Osaka APEC summit.

Seki reiterated Japan's stance of not joining an economic grouping proposed by Malaysia.

"Dividing the Asia-Pacific area into several areas would not be in the interest of Japan," Seki said, referring to Malaysia's demand that Tokyo take part in the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC).

"Some say the EAEC is not an economic bloc but just a caucus. But it is necessary to assess the psychological impact on other Asia-Pacific members in the case of Japan's participation," Seki said.

Takemura: Bad Loans Solved in 2-3 Years

OW2510090395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0415 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 25 KYODO — The bad-loan problem of the Japanese banking industry will be solved "in the not-so-distant future," Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Wednesday [25 October].

"The Finance Ministry maintains its basic policy of liquidating such loans within five years. But they could be written off in two or three years at certain financial institutions," Takemura told a news conference.

The prediction is in line with remarks made by Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita on Tuesday.

At a private symposium, Matsushita said write-offs of problem loans will be finished at "core" financial institutions.

Takemura said, "I understand the so-called 'Japan premium' issue is very severe for Japanese banks." He was referring to the extra amount Japanese banks have to pay on funds they raise overseas as their credit ratings are slashed.

The solution of the issue depends on whether or not huge bad loans facing them will be liquidated, he said.

On faltering housing loan companies, Takemura said the issue is serious for Japan's financial system but a specific blueprint for a solution has yet to be worked out.

"The ministry will do its utmost to draw up a certain framework to deal with it within this year," Takemura said.

Ministry: Rice Output Index Unchanged

*OW2510102095 Tokyo KYODO in English
0953 GMT 25 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 25 KYODO — The rice harvest index stood at 102 against an average of 100 as of Oct. 15, unchanged from a month earlier, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Wednesday [25 October].

The latest survey by the ministry showed good rice harvests in the Kanto region and further west. The rice production index came to 109 in Shikoku, up from 108 a month earlier, and 107 in Chugoku, an increase of 1 point.

But the survey found poor harvests in the Tohoku and Hokuriku regions due to a lack of sunshine. By prefecture, the index stood at 91 for Akita, down from 94 a month earlier, 92 for Yamagata, down from 97, and 94 for Niigata, down from 97.

The overall rice harvest for this year is expected to total 10.74 million tons, about 400,000 tons above projected national demand, ministry officials said. The surplus, in addition to a surplus of rice harvested last year, imports to be made in fiscal 1995 under Japan's pledge to partially open its rice market under Uruguay Round global trade agreements and the government's stockpile, are estimated to bring rice in stock to some 2.5 million tons by the end of October next year.

Restoration of Free Rice Markets Sought

*OW2410123595 Tokyo KYODO in English
1204 GMT 24 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO — Major rice wholesalers agreed Tuesday [24 October] to seek the restoration of free rice markets and institution of rice futures trading to hedge price fluctuation risks, industry officials said.

They said the agreement was reached at a general meeting held in Shiga Prefecture, western Japan, on Tuesday by a national group of rice wholesalers.

The officials said there were 14 free rice markets across the nation before rice was placed under government control during World War II. In addition, they said, 19 rice exchanges were in operation where rice futures trading was conducted.

They said they will work on the rice industry for the restoration of rice markets which will reflect the supply-demand situation.

They said the enforcement in November of a new food control law under which rice trading will be relaxed will be a favorable development for the restoration of rice markets.

An influential business organization recently proposed the establishment of rice markets where rice is traded without government intervention.

Rice Databank, a grain market research agency, supported the association's plan, saying futures trading is desirable for rice growers since it will help prevent wild fluctuation of prices.

Survey Shows Communications Sales Gain

*OW2310103295 Tokyo KYODO in English
0851 GMT 23 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO — The sales forecasts of communications companies total 12.3 trillion yen for fiscal 1995, up 6.3 percent from the previous year, according to survey results released by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry on Monday [23 October].

The ministry sent questionnaires to 1,114 telecommunications and broadcasting companies on July 1 and received replies from 849, or 76.2 percent of the group.

The expected sales increase is much higher than the 1.8 percent projected for all industries, ministry official said.

As a group, telecom companies project sales of 9.5 trillion yen, up 7.3 percent, the ministry said. Excluding Japan's largest domestic and international telecommunications companies — Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. and KDD — new common carriers expect an average 16.8 percent gain in sales to 2.4 trillion yen.

The sales forecasts of broadcasting companies total 2.8 trillion yen, up 3.2 percent, the ministry said.

NEC To Boost 'Record' High Investment in Chips

OW2410085295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO — Japanese electronics giant NEC Corp. Said Tuesday [24 October] it will boost its investment for semiconductor production to a record 210 billion yen in fiscal 1995 ending March to meet growing demand for computer chips worldwide.

The Tokyo-based company said the figure represents a 68 percent rise over the 125 billion yen set aside for capital investment in the previous fiscal year.

The company said investment will be made to increase production capacity both at its domestic and overseas facilities.

Company officials said demand for computer chips will continue to rise until around the year 2000.

They said the company will expand its Tsuruoka plant in Yamagata, northern Japan, to produce next-generation memories, starting in April 1997.

The company originally planned to set aside 150 billion yen for capital investment in fiscal 1995 but boosted the amount by 60 billion yen for expansion of its plants in Hiroshima, Kumamoto and Tsuruoka, the officials said.

The new facility at the Tsuruoka plant will manufacture 8-inch wafers at a monthly average of 10,000 units, they said.

The company revised upward the value of semiconductor production for the current fiscal year by 20 billion yen to 1.17 trillion yen, the officials said.

New Way of Wavelength Demultiplexing Announced

OW1910123995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO — Fujitsu Laboratories on Thursday [19 October] announced a new method of wavelength demultiplexing it claims will have an impact on communications in the next century.

The virtually imaged phased-array (VIPA) scheme announced by Fujitsu reportedly permits a more efficient separation of wavelengths carrying signals through light fibers and is offered as an alternative to previous methods.

The VIPA system is generated with a thin plate of glass coated on both sides with different reflective films and a semicylindrical lens. The light is separated into different wavelengths after being reflected back and forth within the plate of glass.

When compared with prisms and diffraction grating, currently used to decompose light rays, the VIPA system is easier to use since its dispersion is 10-20 times greater than the other methods, Fujitsu said.

In multiplex communications, signals are combined on about 10 different wavelengths and sent on one light fiber. The receiver then separates or demultiplexes the light ray into different wavelengths to retrieve the signals.

NTT Succeeds in Fastest Data Transmission

OW2410115795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 24 KYODO — Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) said Tuesday [24 October] it has conducted an experiment on data transmission via optical fiber at the world's fastest speed.

In the experiment, 400 gigabits of information — the equivalent of a 50-page daily newspaper produced for 100 years — were transmitted per second over a distance of 100 kilometers, the telecommunications giant said.

NTT said the previous world record on the data transmission speed was 2.5 gigabits per second. A gigabit is a billion bits. Eight bits of information are equivalent to one alphanumeric character.

NTT said the achievement paves the way for a data transmission speed of a terabit per second, a speed at which future multimedia data transmission services could be available. A terabit is a trillion bits.

In the latest experiment, NTT used a special light source called a supercontinuum that features continuously variable wavelength with fixed short pulses and allows the utilization of two high-speed data transmission techniques — time sharing and multiple-wavelength transmission.

The experiment is the world's first of its kind based on a combination of the two techniques, which NTT said makes it possible to send data at a speed of 400 gigabits per second through optical fiber networks now in operation.

Hatoyama on Not Forming Block With SDPJ

OW2510042795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0358 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 25 KYODO — A senior lawmaker of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], the smallest member of the three-party ruling coalition, said Wednesday [25 October] that Sakigake will not join the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan: SDPJ] to form a new liberal parliamentary bloc.

Yukio Hatoyama, Sakigake's secretary general, told a meeting of the party Executive Council that there is no plan at the moment for Sakigake to merge with the SDP to form a new party.

The SDP, a member of the ruling coalition along with Sakigake and the Liberal Democratic Party, is planning to dissolve itself and launch a new party with other "liberal" Diet groups.

Hatoyama also brushed aside media reports that Sakigake head Masayoshi Takemura, now serving as finance minister, will lead the SDP-planned new party.

"Takemura says he himself has never directly received such an offer," Hatoyama said.

He also denied reports that Sakigake will present to the SDP preconditions for its participation in the proposed new party.

Sakigake's Executive Council decided to set up an ad-hoc committee to make clear the party's basic policy lines.

Shusei Tanaka, who was selected to head the new committee, said, "with me as chairman of the committee, Sakigake won't sell itself to the SDP."

Murayama's Leadership 'To Be Tested' at APEC

OW2310000695 Tokyo KYODO in English 2246 GMT 22 Oct 95

[First in a series of articles on upcoming APEC talks in Osaka by Takehiko Kajita: "Murayama's Leadership To Be Tested at APEC Osaka"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will face a tough test of his leadership in international diplomacy next month as Japan hosts this year's top-level meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Osaka.

Recognizing the importance of bringing the talks to a successful conclusion, Tokyo has been trying strenuously to prepare a plan for implementing APEC's goal of free trade and investment in the region by the year 2020.

"APEC's Osaka meetings will be an extremely important conference which holds the key to the promotion of open regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific," Murayama said in a key policy speech in parliament in late September.

"We are determined to play a responsible role to achieve the success of the meetings," he said.

However, since it is less than a month until representatives of APEC's 18 members gather in Osaka, the prospect that Japan's premier will be able to demonstrate a much-sought leadership role look gloomy in the face of domestic political pressures.

Because senior APEC officials failed to settle a dispute over the so-called action agenda — a framework for meeting the free trade deadline of 2010 for APEC's industrialized economies and 2020 for its developing economies — haggling will continue at the annual meeting of foreign and trade ministers, set for Nov. 16-17.

During the debate, Murayama must show leadership so that either the ministerial meeting or the following talks by top APEC leaders Nov. 19 can adopt an action agenda that will contribute significantly to implementing the commitment to free trade.

But he also cannot ignore the voices of his colleagues, especially politicians from farming constituencies who are seeking to exempt their main supporters from APEC's commitment to free trade.

"APEC is no place to negotiate," said Koji Futada, a legislator of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and a defender of Japanese agricultural interests. "The value of talks at the World Trade Organization will be undermined if APEC tries to impose rules on liberalization."

The LDP is the dominant force in Japan's ruling coalition, and both it and Murayama's Social Democratic Party are heavily dependent on the farm vote.

Any concession to the majority of APEC's members on agricultural trade could create big problems for the two parties at the next general election for the House of Representatives, which is expected in the first half of 1996.

Murayama is thus torn between two goals and must decide whether to persuade the politicians representing the farming constituencies to abide by the principle of across-the-board liberalization, or whether to try convincing most other APEC members to treat agricultural trade as an exception.

"Mr. Murayama should ignore minor differences and make a bold decision on the handling of agricultural trade," said Yujiro Eguchi, the dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at Tokyo's Soka University. "That's what politics is all about."

Nevertheless, the chances of his taking sides on the politically sensitive issue appear slim in the face of intense, conflicting pressures both at home and abroad.

Akiko Hirano, an analyst on international affairs at the Fuji Research Institute, said one of the major conditions for the success of the Osaka talks is their adoption of an "action agenda that will be rated highly."

"And the high ratings the agenda gets abroad will probably differ from the value placed upon it domestically," she observed.

In order not to disrupt key diplomatic ties, a remaining option for Murayama may be to cobble together an action agenda that tries to have it both ways.

"There are subtle differences of nuance between English and Japanese. We may have to capitalize on the differences and think up wording that can be interpreted as acceptable by both sides," said Norifumi Kato, a parliamentary vice minister for international trade and industry.

Whichever way forward is chosen, it is widely believed that the final draft of the action agenda will not be prepared until just prior to the Osaka talks because of the difficulty in agreeing to a compromise over the handling of the agricultural trade sector.

NFP To Distribute Subsidies Among Members

OW2110080095 Tokyo KYODO in English
0722 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 21 KYODO — The main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party [NFP]) will pay 10 million yen to each of the party's Diet members in early December from the 9.2 billion yen in government subsidies to the party, Shinshinto sources said Saturday [21 October].

Shinshinto Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who previously derided the idea, has changed his mind to placate young party members who have become disgruntled at what they say is Ozawa's high-handed way of managing party business, the sources said. Many of Shinshinto's young parliamentarians have been urging the party to distribute the money rather than keep it all in reserve.

Ozawa initially refused, citing the party's huge debts. Then Shinshinto's leaders announced the subsidies would be allocated in proportion to members' fund-raising track records. But young members objected, saying their financial fate would be at the mercy of Ozawa, the party's de facto leader. Ozawa reluctantly gave in to the protest, and the party leadership eventually decided to provide each member with 10 million yen.

Shinshinto lawmakers will receive other additional payments from the party next year as well. Ozawa is trying to keep the young party members in rein by dangling lavish payments to them as election funds from the party war chest, according to the sources.

Role, Actions of Government Councils Examined

952B0229A Tokyo KANKAI in Japanese Sep 95
pp 134-140

[Article by KANKAI reporting team]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Strong criticisms are being waged against the bureaucracy. As Japan's economy and society face a deadlock, the bureaucracy-led administrative method from the past is questioned anew in various ways. One such target is government councils. They are being criticized because they have been used as a "cover" in the bureaucracy-led administrative system. They have been rarely discussed openly in the past, but the way they should function needs to be discussed now from various angles.*

"Revolts" From Within Councils

Recently, there have been a series of revolts from within government councils.

One such revolt occurred during a meeting of the Central Labor Standard Council (chaired by Tadashi Hanami, professor at Sophia University) of the Ministry of Labor [MOL] on whether to lower the interest rates for employee savings accounts.

On 26 May, the day when the MOL expected to receive a report, members representing the labor side in the Central Labor Standard Council unanimously opposed the submission of a report, citing a "lack of discussion" as the reason. Issuance of a report was postponed. A direct cause for this was a lack of groundwork on the part of the MOL; but this event became another example of casting doubt on the practice of government councils, "reporting without deliberation," which often has been the case in recent years.

Per the Labor Standard Law, the floor limit on interest rates for employee savings accounts has been fixed at 6 percent since 1952. As interest rates in the open market have declined recently, and the rate gap between the open market and the employee savings accounts has widened, Japan Federation of Employers Associations and other employer groups have been requesting deregulation on the interest rates. Based on the average interest rate of 2.834 percent for time deposits with maturity ranging from one to five years, the MOL requested the council to deliberate on lowering this floor limit on the interest rates for employee savings accounts to 3 percent for the first time in 43 years.

During a press interview two days before the council's meeting, a section chief in charge at the MOL said with confidence: "We have already obtained an agreement from the members involved." But, some members representing the labor side received notice on the request for reporting only a day before the council's meeting.

Told suddenly of the request, the members representing the labor side, including Tadao Maekawa, chairman of the metal and machinery committee, revolted: "We cannot report on such an important issue without discussion." So, deliberation was rescheduled for 6 July, and adaptation of the new rate was delayed for a month from the scheduled date of 1 July.

Such a case is not limited to the MOL. Recently, the practice of reporting based only on groundwork without deliberation has been noticeable in government councils. The recent event, as a result, poured cold water over the ministries and agencies that have become accustomed to this practice.

Another example relates to deliberation by the Telecommunications Council of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT] on a review of fees on private communications circuits, which was proposed by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT). In late May, scholarly members of the telecommunications business section opposed such a review, saying: "Before doing that, we need to revamp the fee review system." Coordination among the members faced rough going. Even on 23 June, some members objected to a proposed plan that incorporated a gradual reduction of certain fees. Although this proposal was accepted, with three voting in favor, one absolutely against, and two voicing reservations, the general rule of "unanimous acceptance" was broken.

Opposing viewpoints did not come to surface freely at council meetings in the past, because bureaucrats carried out groundwork thoroughly to prevent oppositions from coming to surface. But, this kind of practice itself should be considered as abnormal.

Promotion of Deregulation Led to Criticism Against Councils

Why is the way of councils questioned anew now? There are several possible reasons.

Establishment of a council is based on Article 8 of the National Government Organization Law. Article 8 states: "Administrative agencies under Article 3, within the boundaries of their legally defined jurisdictions and pursuant to related laws and ordinances, can establish organizations according to a council system for important issues that are appropriate for deliberation by those with knowledge and experience."

What is it like in reality? A minister requests a council to deliberate on an issue and compile a report; but everything proceeds according to what has already been set up by bureaucrats, and in many cases, a report is prepared according to a pre-drafted scenario. Yet, the central bureaucracy has used this method in dealing with issues by alluding that the reports by councils has received public consensus.

Now that Japan's economy and society are suffering from "metallic fatigues" everywhere, it has become difficult to apply this method.

We have entered the so-called age of a mature economy. Because of slow economic growth, the size of an economic pie is not expanding. Regarding how to allocate this limited pie, a new way of building consensus is necessary. This cannot be achieved through the bureaucracy-led framework of the past alone.

To be sure, deregulation in various forms is necessary to create a new economic and social framework.

Deregulation conflicts with the existing regulations and vested interests of ministries and agencies. This is why deregulation doesn't make much progress.

In the deregulation plan the government is scheduled to carry out for this fiscal year, there are more than 100 items that government offices "consider necessary to be studied by councils."

Among them are 40 items, the largest number, relating to the MOL. This is understandable in the case of labor administration because there are many social regulations to protect workers, such as the Labor Standard Law and the Employment Security Law. But, there seem to be many maneuvers to delay deregulation by using councils as "covers" and citing the need for further studies.

Councils as Covers: The Case of the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance

The number of cases where government offices try to force their wills by using their councils as covers are too numerous to mention. Here, however, we would like to examine the case of the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance of the Ministry of Transport [MOT].

In February 1994, a specialized hospital opened in Okayama City. It is called the "Okayama Medical Center" for bed-ridden patients with serious brain injuries from traffic accidents. This is a third such hospital in the nation, following two others in Chiba and Sendai, built by the "Automobile Accident Countermeasure Center," a government enterprise under the MOT's jurisdiction, using investment profits from premiums collected for the automobile third party liability insurance. The total cost of construction was 9.2 billion yen; but the hospital was built without much discussion in the Diet.

In effect, the decision [to build the hospital] was made by the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance, but it was approved without much discussion by the council. In fact, everything proceeded according to the MOT scenario.

Examination of this process reveals a dogged determination to protect vested interests on the part of the ministry, which is in charge of a huge special account for the liability insurance.

Seeing an increase in the amount of subsidy to the Automobile Accident Countermeasure Center from investment profits on liability insurance premiums, from 8.9 billion yen in the fiscal 1991 to 15 billion yen in the fiscal 1992 budget, during a meeting of the Budget Committee in the Lower House in April 1992, Dietman Hidenari Ito (a member of Japan Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]) asked for the reason. It was finally revealed that the increase was for construction of the medical center in Okayama. The annual cost for caring for each bed-ridden patient is 60 million yen. And, only a certain number of such patients can be admitted to the medical center.

There was no clear-cut answer to a question: "Did the council on automobile third party liability insurance discuss its validity?"

The system of automobile third party liability insurance started in 1955, and this insurance is compulsory for those who buy automobiles. The number of policy holders has continued to increase, and as the insurance premium was not reduced until April 1991, the cumulative amount of funds continued to increase, amounting to about 2.8 trillion as of today. Investment profits in the fiscal 1993 alone were 140 billion yen.

To promote prevention of traffic accidents and protection of victims by using investment profits, the Automobile Accident Countermeasure Center was established in 1973. In the beginning, the Center provided scholarships to those children who were orphaned by traffic accidents, and administered aptitude tests to drivers. Revision of the law in 1981 added a new service—"caring for patients with severe after-effects of injuries." As a result, the number of personnel increased from 184 at the beginning to 417. Of these, 47, including six executive officers, are former bureaucrats from the MOT, the Ministry of Finance [MOF], etc.

Management of investment profits is in most part left to discretion of the MOT, but a budget and a settlement of accounts are reported to the Diet only once a year. Unless you are very knowledgeable, or are aware of some problems, you cannot check these huge budgets or settlements of accounts. This is why they have rarely been taken up as an issue in the Diet.

The only place that can check and discuss about them is the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance; but the council itself is not informed of the uses of investment profits in the special account, nor of the details of the next year's budget. Instead, it receives explanations after the fact. Koichi Otani, a member of the council and a professor (of marine insurance) at Waseda University, acknowledges this by saying: "It is certainly odd that the uses of investment profits in the special account are not checked." However, there is no evidence of discussion on this issue in the past ten years.

Realizing the continuing build-up of the cumulative amount of funds in the special account for the automobile third party liability insurance, the Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers Unions (a 780,000-member organization chaired by Teruhito Enomoto) began to demand "reduction of the insurance premium" about five years ago. As a result, the premium was reduced finally in 1991 for the first time in thirty or so years. But, none of the council's members independently lobbied for such a reduction in premium.

The Confederation criticizes the way the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance is organized: "There are no members representing the user side. The members of the council are scholars and former bureaucrats who easily can be handled by the MOT."

Shigeo Hoshino, chief of the Safety Section at the MOT Automobile Traffic Bureau, says: "We have an established system that is being checked by the Diet, councils, and the Board of Audit. We are not creating jobs for retiring bureaucrats." But, it seems impossible to say that this system is functioning at the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance.

In addition to general accounts, special accounts can be created for the national budget when special projects are to be carried out, or when particular revenues are to be applied to particular spending. However, the amount of the budget for these special accounts tends to increase every year. According to a report by the MOF, there are currently 38 special accounts, including the account for automobile third party liability insurance. The amount budgeted for the fiscal year 1994 is about 80 trillion yen for these special accounts, which is 7 trillion yen more than the 73 trillion yen for the general accounts. This huge budget is submitted once a year, and it is doubtful that the Diet checks the settlements of accounts thoroughly.

A special account has some merits: "As in the case of a subsidy for employment adjustments, whenever there is an urgent need for funds, we can use the funds in our employment insurance account" (per the MOL). However, there are some special accounts that are not checked as thoroughly as the general accounts, and maintain a huge surplus like the account for automobile third party liability insurance. "Special accounts are getting to be like an Aladdin's lamp' for government agencies to increase the number of jobs covertly for retiring officials" (per Hidenari Ito, a member of the Lower House).

No doubt, the Council on Automobile Third Party Liability Insurance has provided a seal of approval to this covert operation. This is only one of many cases that came to the surface.

Problems Abound Regarding Council Members

According to a study by Nihon Keizai Shimbunsha, out of 207 councils for which members are appointed, 67 are chaired by former officials of the government agencies in charge. When those from other government agencies are counted, 87, or close to 40 percent of the total are chaired by former government officials. Also, out of 4,600 total members of the councils, more than 800 are former bureaucrats. Therefore, some people naturally ask the question: "Are former bureaucrats considered to be impartial members through learning and experience?"

It is inconceivable, for example, that a former official from the Ministry of Home Affairs would say something contrary to the interests of the ministry; and, in fact, such an instance is hard to find.

Scholars are another group of leading members of councils. They are also selected according to the discretion of government agencies in charge.

In a sense, it is reasonable to appoint scholars as leading members of councils. As council deliberations require specialized knowledge in many cases, it is natural to seek knowledge and advice from specialists in each area.

Also, unlike representatives from interest groups, scholars generally take a neutral stance. Therefore, it is understandable that councils try to enhance their authority by using the "specialty" and "neutrality" of scholars.

But, do they actually select the leading scholars specialized in respective areas? And, are these scholarly members of councils truly neutral?

Answers to these questions are doubtful when we look at scholarly members of the councils.

Reportedly, every government agency has "zoku-scholars" who act on behalf of the agency.

In many cases, these "zoku-scholars" are assuming concurrent membership in several councils within their respective agency. Of course, there are also some independent-minded scholarly members. In many cases, however, these "zoku-scholars" are appointed as chairmen to lead their councils, and follow the scenarios of their agencies.

What made us wonder about the role of scholarly members in a council is the case of how these scholarly members in the Central Labor Standard Council acted on the issue to extend the grace period for a 46-hour work week, which was supposed to expire at the end of 1993.

On 8 March 1993, when all the members representing the labor side from the Rengo (Japanese Private Sector Trade Union Confederation) opposed an extension of the grace period and boycotted the council meeting, the remaining members enforced the issuance of the Central Labor Standard Council's report to extend the grace period for another year.

The Labor Standard Law was revised in 1987 for the first time in 40 years. The revision required a change from the existing 48-hour work week to a 40-hour work week system. This change was not to become effective on 1 April 1988, the effective date of the revision, but the 48-hour work week was to be maintained for the time being. The 40-hour work week system was to become effective in principle in April 1991. But, for companies of a certain size and industries, such as small and medium companies, which employ more than half of the total employed workers, the grace period for the 40-hour work week was extended to the end of March this year.

When should the change to the 40-hour work week system be enforced? And, when should the grace period expire? These were the main questions to be considered in revising the Labor Standard Law at that time. According to a report issued by the Central Labor Standard Council in the end of 1992, decisions were made as follows: The change to the 40-hour work week system in principle was to become effective in April 1994, the grace period would be eliminated as of the end of the fiscal 1996, and the 40-hour work week system would be in full effect from fiscal 1997.

What actually happened, however, was that when the labor side was about to submit this revised plan to the Diet, the management side—mainly the group of small and medium-sized companies—objected to it by citing the recession as a reason, and approached the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. Then, the LDP made a stand against the submission of the plan to the Diet, and had the labor side accept a one-year extension of the grace period in exchange for allowing the plan to be submitted to the Diet.

Councils have been used by the government, ministries, and agencies in handling difficult agenda. As labor administration tends to have many cases where interests of labor and management clash directly against each other, the MOL has made various uses of councils that are composed of members from three parties representing public interests, management, and labor. The Male-Female Equal Employment Opportunities Law, the Laborer Transfer Law, the 1986 Revision of the Labor Standard Law, the Minimum Wage Council that is convened every year, and so on—all these received "groundwork" at the council level. By putting three-party agreements of councils on a "pedestal," many complex problems have been weathered through.

But, the one-year extension of the grace period was not deliberated at the council; the MOL decided on its own to make a promise with the LDP, and obliterated the rule of three-party agreement at the council.

What's vexing during this process was the behavior of the members representing public interests.

At the time of issuing the report that permitted the one-year extension of the grace period, they stated their view merely as follows: "It is regrettable that there was a lack of communication with the council during the process of submitting the draft revision of the Labor Standard Law to the Diet. We would like to request the MOL to reflect on this episode and to deal properly with it in the future."

Tadashi Hanami, chairman of the council and a professor at Sophia University, criticized the members representing the Rengo for their boycotting the meeting: "The council this time had never had a predetermined conclusion' as the labor side claimed it did. Their action could jeopardize the methods of this council [that is to make decisions based on discussions]." However, he endorsed the action of the MOT, which made the promise to the LDP, by saying: "Sometimes, such an action can be unavoidable in view of the balance of political power."

As a scholar, he made a strange argument. Since the MOT is the one that could jeopardize the methods of the council by ignoring the established rule, he, as a member representing public interests, should have strongly criticized the ministry.

It is incredible that they were told of the conclusion—the "one-year extension of the grace period"—first, and then were supposed to deliberate on it. But, it is also incredible to say to the members of the labor side who boycotted the meeting in objection to this action: "We never had a predetermined conclusion." To begin with, scholarly members representing public interests are supposed to state impartial opinions that are independent of both the management and labor sides.

The attitude of the seven members representing public interests, including Chairman Hanami, made us doubt the fairness of these actions as well.

Professor Hanami still chairs the Central Labor Standard Council. Indeed, he is one of "zoku-scholars" of the MOL.

Problems are not confined to scholars. They apply equally to council members from the mass media, including newspaper companies and television stations.

Clearly, having people from the mass media as council members is an attempt to dodge annoying criticisms from the media.

Are the mass media making any efforts to circumvent such an attempt?

Regrettably, not so in reality. It can be said that most of the council members from the mass media are not fully playing their role for checks and balances by stating their independent opinions.

Then, what does it mean for people from the mass media to become council members? This question has been repeatedly brought up and argued within newspaper companies. Yet, not many people refuse to become council members.

Most of them justify their becoming members by saying: "If I become a council member, I will be able to get information that is hard to come by otherwise," or "Debating with various kinds of members is educational." But, such attitudes will hardly improve the actual condition of councils that are being manipulated by government offices.

Another problem is that council meetings are not open to public, making arguments and processes hidden behind the closed doors.

If council meetings are opened to the public as much as possible, the effect will be to make it difficult at least for scholars and people from the mass media to act irresponsibly.

The time has come to review thoroughly the actions of government councils on which the bureaucracy has become dependent.

Danger of Sakigake's Breaking Up Viewed

952B0237A Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Oct 95 pp 96-99

[Article by Takao Iwami, MAINICHI SHIMBUN editorial consultant: "The Danger of Breaking Up Impending Over 'Takemura's Sakigake'"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The People Are Disillusioned

It is common knowledge in the political world that the smaller a political party, the harder its management is. This is because due to a small number of its members, emotional confrontation becomes more acute than in large or medium parties. It has no leeway to set up a buffer zone.

About 20 years ago, when six people including Yohei Kono (present Liberal Democratic Party president) seceded from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and formed the New Liberal Club, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka is said to have advised one of the members as follows: "If you do it at all, do it with all your might. You will fail unless all of you six men meet and consult together everyday. I say, everyday." Tanaka knew that a smaller political party required a closer mutual understanding and that otherwise, it would break up. As feared, the New Liberal Club did nothing but engage in intraparty strife day in and day out and ceased to exist after about 10 years. The Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] and the United Social Democratic Party [USDP] also followed similar fates.

And now Sakigake [Harbinger] is already faced with the danger of its dissolution a little more than two years after its formation. Sakigake looked like acquiring a unique position as a pioneer party in the political restructuring period as indicated by its name, but it has now run up against a stone wall.

What directly touched off this situation was the party's poor showing in the upper house election. The candidates on which the party had placed its hopes such as Atsuo Nakamura (Tokyo Constituency) and Yoshimi Ishikawa (Kanagawa Constituency) were beaten one by one, and amid a sense of defeat the party's Representative Masayoshi Takemura (finance minister) said at a meeting of executives on the evening of 26 July that "on this occasion, I would like to resign as head of the party."

The next day, he committed his resignation to the party's Deputy Representative Shusei Tanaka. Explaining the reason for this step, Takemura reportedly made the following remark: "As finance minister, I worked as hard as I could, but I failed to obtain the people's understanding on such issues as the bailout of two credit unions, the enforcement of strict official discipline, and the consolidation of special corporations, and this failure affected the results of the upper house election."

Luck also went against him. It was because, beginning early this year, difficult problems rushed on Takemura as finance minister, pointedly bringing his political position to the public test.

However, the root cause of this development was Sakigake's unconvincing ideals as a party rather than Takemura's lack of ability as an individual. Takemura published a book carrying a witty title, "Japan, a Small but Glittering Nation," and showed a vague vision of the nation. As for Sakigake, it put up slogans appealing to the masses such as "Enforce Administrative Reform Resolutely" and "Shift From Bureaucracy to the Principle of Civil Rights." However, it is results that count much in politics after all. Takemura said that "I worked as hard as I could," but in coping with any of his issues Takemura simply remained within the commonsensible bounds, acting generally the way a finance minister from the LDP would do. He said that "I failed to obtain the people's understanding," but putting it rightly, the people who had pinned hopes on him in their hearts were disillusioned.

Concerning the consolidation of special corporations as well, Takemura had a chance to play up "Sakigake's unique character" at the risk of his post, but instead he somehow acted reservedly from beginning to end. The charms of renovation and vanguardism which people vaguely felt in Sakigake rapidly faded away. Should we blame this on limitedness of Takemura as a politician or the ambiguity of Sakigake as a political party?

First-Class Schemer

It was in June 1993 that 10 lower house members including Takemura bolted from the LDP. It was the time when a nonconfidence motion against the Miyazawa cabinet was passed, driving the lower house into dissolution. They, together with Shinseito [the Japan Renewal Party] led by Tsutomu Hata and Ichiro Ozawa, directly triggered the LDP's degradation into an opposition party.

Sakigake teamed up with Morihiro Hosokawa's Japan New Party [JNP], joined hands with eight "non-LDP" groups such as the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], Shinseito, Komeito [the Clean Government Party], and the DSP, and succeeded in establishing the Hosokawa coalition cabinet. Takemura took his place in the nerve center of the government as chief cabinet secretary. This was a dramatic development giving the impression that political restructuring finally began in earnest.

For about two years after that, Takemura moved into the political center as a newly-emerging strong man and a first-class schemer. Commenting on Takemura, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone reportedly said that "that guy is an anaconda (a huge serpent)." He thus displayed such an image of himself that people even said that there was no knowing what that man would plot next. He came to grapples with (then) Prime Minister Hosokawa and (then) Shinseito Secretary General Ozawa and eventually bade farewell to them. Then, he brought into being an LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition government with SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama at the head, and he acquired the post of finance minister. Shall we call his behavior wild or skillful? At any rate, Takemura then was felt to be the lion of the day.

From the end of 1994 to the beginning of 1995, people who were conversant with the political world unanimously guessed that "taking the place of Ozawa, Takemura is sure to become the keyman in the 1995 political scene."

An atmosphere encouraging such a guess was prevailing around elated Takemura. People said that he would undoubtedly aim to become prime minister in his third jump after serving as chief cabinet secretary and finance minister.

In fact, toward the end of 1994, he began action to explore the way for a new party (the third force under a tripolar system) through the tieup with the SDPJ and showed a sign of watching for a post-Murayama opportunity as the leader of the third force. He did so after foreseeing a situation in which "a prime minister from the LDP" would still be hard to be realized.

At that time, the news frequently leaked out of the LDP that an argument for caution against Takemura was underway among leading LDP members. Those leaders reportedly contended as follows: "It is more than we can bear that Sakigake having only 20 or so members is leading our great LDP by the nose. We must consider disposing of Takemura." This argument was followed by the "Takemura bashing" which started in the beginning of this year.

Some Criticize It as a "Laggard Party"

Nevertheless, the charms of Takemura-supporting Sakigake leaders and their teamwork were far more lustrous than those of other parties, thereby making Takemura look forceful. Despite its small size, the party had the following colorful faces: Deputy Representative Tanaka, a headstrong and unique controversialist; Secretary General Yukio Hatoyama whose popularity was on a sharp increase due to his well-modulated voice in speech; Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Sonoda, a mediator of a deliberative type; Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Naoto Suga, a citizens movement-oriented expert on policies who transferred from the USDP; and former Health and Welfare Minister Shoichi Ide. What is more, outsiders could hardly hear any intraparty criticism against Takemura, unlike the past Shinseito and JNP. It appeared that this highly-individualized "Takemura Party" was even poised toward making its next momentous move.

However, then came a pinch from the outside. In the upper house election, only three members were elected, one in the constituency and the other two in proportional representation. This was a really poor showing, which indicated that it seized only 2.4 percent of the total seats up for reelection. All of a sudden, a voice was raised uproariously within the party saying that "if we do nothing about this situation, our party will be buried between the LDP and the SDPJ." From the position of maintaining their party's originality, Deputy Representative Tanaka and others argued for supporting the government from outside the cabinet or seceding from the government. Sakigake thus was visited by a serious confusion for the first time since its founding.

Takemura once tendered his resignation as the party's representative, but later retracted it, after being persuaded to stay in office. This was because all Diet members of the party unanimously viewed that "the current political situation cannot be tided over without Takemura." As for Takemura, by taking the desperate measure to tender his resignation, he temporarily calmed the argument for the secession from the government and also secured his centripetal force as party head. He thus gave first aid to the party.

However, as a result of the upper house election, Shinshinto [the New Frontier Party] made a great stride forward, thereby intensifying the rapid tide toward a two-big-conservative-party system. Amid such a tide, where on earth is Sakigake intending to go? Not a few people in the political world tend to sneer at the party, saying that "it is not a harbinger but already a laggard party."

Toward the end of July, as "minimum conditions" for the continued existence of the coalition government, Sakigake proposed four items to Prime Minister Murayama, such as strengthening the function of the prime minister's official residence and opening the discussions at various deliberation councils to the public, saying that "when these items are not fulfilled within the period ending in September, our party cannot but secede from the government" (Secretary General Hatoyama).

This stance is tantamount to creating on its own an occasion to secede from the government. Moreover, Takemura decided to attend a protest rally (2 September) on Tahiti to show his opposition to France's nuclear test by action, kicking up a row within the ruling coalition camp. The LDP stood against his decision, saying that it was unwise for an important cabinet member to attend, while Prime Minister Murayama and his SDPJ members showed their understanding. Some also said jealously that "this is again Takemura's stage performance." It may have been another attempt to display the party's originality. When this was regarded as an expression of Sakigake's irritation, there was no contending against it.

However, such a measure can hardly be linked to the party's survival. From medium- and long-term viewpoints, it was evident from an earlier time that there was almost no way left for Sakigake but to participate actively in the creation of "the third force under a tripolar system" which would distinguish itself from the two conservative parties—the LDP and Shinshinto. Nevertheless, this approach involves things quite difficult to handle.

Now May Be Time To Display His Real Ability

Takemura met with Prime Minister Murayama in late July, and the two agreed that "the SDPJ and Sakigake will cooperate as the third force under a tripolar system and aim to rally dovish and liberal elements."

After that, Takemura also had frequent contacts with leading SDPJ members such as General Secretary Wataru Kubo and Deputy General Secretary Masanori Goto and made moves with an eye toward a "new SDPJ-Sakigake party." However, this scenario contains not a few obstacles.

First, within Sakigake itself, Hatoyama expresses the following negative view: "I believe nobody will feel attraction to a new party if it is founded with the idea of two fellow election losers getting merged and healing their wounds mutually. Therefore, in regards to us, there can be no talk on building a new party between 'the SDPJ and Sakigake.' What should come before this is the establishment of 'the third force under a tripolar system.' Then, we could attract individual politicians, even including cooperators from Shinshinto and the LDP, and gather strength. Unless we proceed this way, 'the third force' itself would not develop into a solid one."

This reasoning, too, has a logical base in a sense. Hatoyama has already begun taking his own independent action by participating in the "Liberal Forum," a group aimed at building the third force under a tripolar system, together with former Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi and Democratic New Party Club Representative Banri Umieda. Using the Tokyo Constituency as his stage of action, Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Suga is also scheduled to inaugurate the "Tokyo Conference for the Liberal Third Force Under a Tripolar System" (temporary designation) together with the same Umieda and others. This "Tokyo Conference" aims to rally a new force primarily made up of independents, and so there are subtle strategic and procedural differences between the "Tokyo Conference" and the "Liberal Forum."

On the other hand, within the SDPJ, too, is a dragging-on confrontation between the rightist and leftist forces over the third force issue as is usually the case with the party, and it is unlikely that the two forces will ever be able to get to the heart of the issue. However, viewed from another angle, all these developments might represent parts of a multifaceted operation being carried out by Sakigake at the risk of its survival, and now may be the time for tactician Takemura to display his real ability.

New Democratic Club's Banri Kaieda Interviewed

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[Interview with Banri Kaieda by Takao Iwami; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Third Political Force Consisting of a Major Alliance Between Non-Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elements and the New Frontier Party

Significance Lay With Participation in House of Councillor Election in Tokyo—"Tokyo Citizen 21" Group Evinces Independent Qualities

[Iwami] The recent election was the first national election held since the formation of the coalition government making it an important one, but in reality there was no upsurge of enthusiasm. The reason was that there is no appeal concerning political parties. I have served as a political reporter for many years, but this is the first election where the image of political parties was so obscured. You sponsored Mieko Mishiro under the auspices of "Tokyo Citizen 21," but what was your motivation?

[Kaieda] Currently, the Tokyo electoral district is like a microcosm of the whole country, and LDP candidates do not espouse forceful policy or doctrine. Just as the New Frontier Party made a conspicuous showing in the proportional electoral districts, even the Komeito was strong. Even the Socialist Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) has declined to the point where it barely managed to post Kikuko Suzuki as an officially recognized party candidate. In such a sense, Tokyo is an electoral district which symbolizes the nation as a whole. That being the case, there is a need to indicate the next development in Tokyo. We cannot deny that preparations were inadequate in that "Tokyo Citizen 21" was not launched until 16 May, but the group represents an effort to illustrate future options to the electorate. I believe we gained some value by participating in the recent election.

[Iwami] I understand Mishiro is not affiliated with any political party. Does this mean that "Tokyo Citizen 21" is not of the same genre as other political parties?

[Kaieda] Yes, that is the case. Members of the House of Councillors need not be a member of a political party. However, an unaffiliated politician would not be able to accomplish anything on a solitary basis, while as indicated in Motoo Shiina's article published in the CHUO KORON, I felt that if joint efforts were made with the type of people in the group in the House of Councillors, we might be able to engineer a new movement which differs from any in the House of Representatives. Individuals elected to the House of Councillors will serve a six-year term, but the House of Representatives will be moving about in utter confusion for the next six years. Under such circumstances, I think there is a need for stable individuals devoid of party interests who challenge the LDP and New Frontier Party [NFP] with various issues and function in the overall interests of Japan as a whole.

[Iwami] Oh, I see. With which of the groups within the House of Councillors do you feel affinity?

[Kaieda] That would be the Shinrokufukai. The reason is that membership in that group includes individuals like Kunitaro Takeda and Keizo Kojima, who belong to the Japan New Party and did not shift over to the NFP.

[Iwami] What do you think of the Niin Club?

[Kaieda] I feel affinity for them too for the same reason.

[Iwami] In other words, this is a case where you would like to form a group with independent qualities that is separate from political parties such as the LDP, SDPJ, NFP, and the Communist Party.

[Kaieda] Yes. That is the case.

Hopes are Placed With the Government To "Initiate" Structural Reform—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Takes Measures for First Time in Several Years To Inspire a Weaker Yen

[Iwami] I will depart from the topic just covered and go on to basic issues, but sources in the Kansai area sense a considerable degree of impatience with current politics. A sense of crisis is more profound with individuals who are located outside the Tokyo area. The question is, what is it that politics must do? This is a topic covered by Kaieda at symposiums. Could you explain some of the immediate issues which must be addressed?

[Kaieda] Candidly speaking, there is the issue wherein failure to achieve structural reform in Japanese society leads to a strong yen and the accumulation of trade surpluses. Further, the nonperforming loan issues and others are all part of the Japanese structural issue. Everyone is aware of the issue, but we have arrived at a point where further deterioration of the situation cannot be tolerated. However, it is the role of politics to effect radical changes and that cannot be accomplished unless we go through the process of metamorphosis. In that sense, measures cannot be limited to the prescription of policy. Why is it that we cannot enjoy a sense of affluence, even though the country has become a major economic force? The situation is attributable in a sense to excessive savings and restrained consumption, creating a need for government to play a role in stimulating a reversal of those habits. If the government were to make a small move in this respect, the "initiation" of such measures would have a major impact in bringing eventual, radical deregulation of the financial system. There is a need to take such action. If I were to speak without fear of being misconstrued, the likes of the Japanese-U.S. automotive negotiations should not have been concluded in that manner. That conclusion should have inspired controversy.

[Iwami] The discontent you address now is a matter of policy which will determine the future direction of this country. However, a matter of even more intense discontent is the current effectiveness of politics. I am speaking of the absence of necessary measures, specifically discontent over the failure of politics and political parties to function. What are your thoughts on this point?

[Kaieda] The situation you refer to does exist. As an example, recently the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (FRB) lowered the federal funds rate by 0.25 percent. Immediately following that move, the BOJ implemented a coordinated cut in interest rates. Both countries also engaged in coordinated intervention in the foreign exchange markets, resulting in a weaker yen and higher stock prices. These actions by the BOJ took place for the first time in some months, in fact several years.

[Iwami] It was a case where they finally came around to taking some action.

[Kaieda] We are speaking of the world of stock prices and foreign exchange in which politics have no direct involvement, but they are examples of how markets will move if they are supported by astute actions. Lowering interests rates and intervening in the New York foreign exchange markets are responsibilities of the BOJ, but it is the responsibility of politics to take the ensuing second and third measures. The current role of politics must involve the elimination of financial instability. There is no time for a leisurely approach.

Issue of Greater Concern is the LDP Rather Than Any Ties Between the LDP and SDPJ—Japan-Bashing Evolves Into Japan-Passing

[Iwami] Is this a case where you view the LDP-SDPJ coalition government's failing to function not only in the economic arena, but in the area of external diplomacy?

[Kaieda] Yes.... The other issue concerns the APEC [Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation] conference scheduled for this fall. An important policy issue as we move toward the 21st century is how Japan will commit itself to Asian affairs as it maintains friendship with the United States. Japan has placed itself in suspense as it awaits to see what APEC will do in relation to Taiwan. However, Japan should take early action to determine its policy in this area. Currently, the United States and China suffer from tension, but on the other hand China is boosting its friendship with Great Britain. In essence, Taiwan stands between the United States and China, causing a worsening of relations between the latter two, but Hong Kong stands between China and Great Britain, contributing to improving relations between the two nations. The contrast is drastic.

[Iwami] The situation is devoid of sentimental factors (laugh).

[Kaieda] Until recently, they spoke of a U.S., Taiwanese, Chinese triangle, but Great Britain and Hong Kong are now involved to form a pentagon. Japan is now considered as being uninvolved. Japan must make a decision now as to how it will involve itself with the pentagon.

[Iwami] It appears to be a case of Japan-passing in recent times.

[Kaieda] It is a case of excluding Japan. Bashing has transformed into passing.

[Iwami] I wonder if the current LDP-SDPJ government has the capability to astutely involve itself in such a delicate situation.

[Kaieda] I doubt that it does. Japan is being afforded an opportunity to step in when U.S.-Chinese relations face troubled times. There is a need to clarify its position by November. A preliminary meeting has already begun in Hokkaido.

[Iwami] Such a grand strategy is necessary, but the question is, is it a case where the LDP and SDPJ suffer from organizational weakening, or is it a case where the LDP-SDPJ alliance cannot function properly?

[Kaieda] I don't think there is anything wrong with an LDP-SDPJ alliance. Rather, I feel there may be problems within the LDP. Kono has been making statements that reflect a great amount of concern for the internal workings of the LDP. Even his behavior in the Budget Committee reflects an inability to make clear-cut statements. The LDP itself is being held together by the mere fact that it is a ruling party, and it lacks solidarity and the momentum to move forward. That is why I feel there is a problem within the LDP rather than with the LDP-SDPJ alliance.

Aim for a Political Party To Enlist Support of Over 30 Percent of the Public—Regional Political Parties Essential for Debates on Welfare

[Iwami] The LDP always faced intraparty conflicts concerning external policy. That situation was the cause for Japan's vague diplomacy. However, we cannot afford to continue with such a stance. The question is, how can we break away from the LDP's state of stalemate? I feel a potential measure would be similar to the process of shock experienced in the election victories of Aoshima and Yokoyama.

[Kaieda] The increasing trend toward the lack of any political party in the House of Councillors and House of Representatives which the public chooses to support is a reflection that there is no political party which the public wishes to entrust with its lives or livelihoods, and is a form of criticism toward existing political parties. I believe it is the role of those of us in the House of Representatives to establish a political party that can win the support of more than 30 percent of the public.

[Iwami] You speak of more than 30 percent.

[Kaieda] We could not expect support in excess of 50 percent, but 10 percent or 20 percent would be inadequate from an overall viewpoint. In essence, we need to crystallize the ideas vaguely espoused by at least 30 percent or 30 percent to 50 percent of the public into policies and doctrine. And, then we need to establish an organization. However, we do face the issue concerning another organizational debate. In other words, 19th century organizations in which all orders were issued from the top down are no longer practical, while inroads are being made at the prefectural-assembly level by non-party-affiliated elements and accelerated during the local election in April. I believe national-government level political parties lack vigor, because although top-to-bottom pyramid organizations were established, there are signs of disintegration at the bottom levels.

[Iwami] I understand what you say about the weakening of the pyramid, but I think the issue of know-how concerning what corrective action should be taken on political party organizations poses difficulties. I imagine your "Tokyo Citizen 21" group is one experiment of that genre. There are those knowledgeable individuals who take actions similar to Hokkaido's Yokomichi and Sakigake's Hatoyama. What are your thoughts on such regional party debates?

[Kaieda] Candidly speaking, we are still in the experimental stage. We have no idea what shape the organization will ultimately assume, but I believe there is some value in running an experiment.

[Iwami] I would say there is.

[Kaieda] There is a trend involving decentralization of government and regional sovereignty. Another change will involve a shift in senior-citizen welfare administration from the national level to the local-government level. Specifically, local-government level debate is substantive, while national-level debate tends to be devoid of substance. Local-level forums are crucial to debate concerning issues of this nature.

Give Recognition to Political Parties at the National and the Regional Levels—Establish a National Political Party With Yokomichi as the Locus

[Iwami] I understand that regional political parties can stimulate politics, but the central level is plagued by a kind of power struggle and the reality is that there is a lack of understanding concerning the building of a network.

[Kaieda] We speak of dual party registrations. Individuals are free to join or leave regional political parties. We are speaking of a situation analogous to the main gate at Waseda (University) wherein people speak of "individuals coming and going and changing in the process...(laugh)" However, national political parties must be established in a stable fashion. Even in such instances, restrictions based on party decisions will be waived wherever possible, but parliamentarians registered with the national parties must embrace the philosophy of promoting regional decentralization. Another principle they must embrace is to oppose bureaucratic systems. The reason is that concentration of power at the central level is supported by bureaucratic systems. These three factors must be recognized as common factors. Designation of party chiefs and votes on budgets must be preceded by debate, but a unified movement and near-term goal must be the establishment of a third political force. The third political force must not limit itself to being a stable opposition party, but one which actively involves itself with and influences current government affairs.

[Iwami] Are you defining regional political parties as not being part of national parties and being independent?

[Kaieda] Yes. And dual membership would be permissible.

[Iwami] Dual membership? Then, you are speaking of a dual effort which involves the establishment of regional political parties throughout the nation as well as a national political party.

[Kaieda] Yes.

[Iwami] We are unable to visualize a national political party. Of what sort of agenda are you speaking?

[Kaieda] Yokomichi's "New Wind-Hokkaido Forum" in itself is supposedly not a local party, but we will have him form a foundation. Simultaneously, he will play a central role in forming a national party, because Yokomichi can be considered as being on the "brink of becoming a true leader." Additionally, Hatoyama could do likewise.

[Iwami] What sort of move will Hatoyama make?

[Kaieda] We will arrange to have the independence of each of the nationwide chapters of the Sakigake Party recognized, while specific action to be taken in relation to elections will consist of my "Tokyo Citizen 21" group, Yamahana's (former SDPJ committee chairman) Tokyo Democratic Alliance, and Sakigake Party's Kan's group forming an alliance to post a candidate in each of the 25 small electoral districts. Our alliance will be given a new name and an effort will be made to win a number of Diet seats.

[Iwami] Under those circumstances, what will be the relationship between Kan and the Sakigake Party?

[Kaieda] We will have to ask the Sakigake to engage in a debate aimed at dissolving itself.

[Iwami] Dissolution?

[Kaieda] Yes. If we were to address some of the details of the situation.

Complicated Trends Accelerated by Hosokawa's New Plan—Formation of a Third Political Force Could Result in Its Control of 100 Parliamentarian Seats

[Iwami] It would probably be difficult for either Hatoyama or Kan to form a national political party separate from the Sakigake Party.

[Kaieda] However, a third political force could be realized only in that way.

[Iwami] The movements taking place now are complicated. Hosokawa has presented a new plan, once more. Hajime Funada who is affiliated with Hatoyama has stated that he is willing to go along with Hosokawa's plan. The situation is confusing.

[Kaieda] Yes. What we would like to ask of Hosokawa is that he conclude the work that he initiated in dissolving the JNP and taking his followers to form the NFP. The question is why hasn't he reached the stage of consummation? If an entity is set up as a mutual aid organization as an election tactic, they should arrive at a decision to dissolve that entity (laugh).

[Iwami] You are speaking of consolidations and adjustments in organizations. As members of the electorate, the current political party setup would make it difficult for us to choose a political party to support during any future general election. We must consider the fact that the proportional representation districts do exist. If we were to express ourselves in terms of what we seek, we would like for politicians to present a grand design for a third political force which has the potential of becoming a primary political force in the future.

[Kaieda] The first step to be taken should be for all non-LDP and non-New Frontier Party candidates to assemble in Tokyo, post themselves as candidates in all of the small electoral districts, and to engage in election campaigning as members of a common roster. Next, this procedure should be followed in all 11 nationwide regions and by an alliance of all winning candidates. The best qualified will become the inherent leader of the new party.

[Iwami] Will the Tokyo Citizen 21 group survive those developments?

[Kaieda] Yes. The idea is that it will remain as one branch, concurrent with a national center. I will be in charge of Tokyo Citizen 21 as a branch, with the possibility left that the branch may eventually self-destruct.

[Iwami] Is there a possibility that a third political force will be established before the next general election?

[Kaieda] That goal must be accomplished. If that goal is not accomplished, elements with inconsistent philosophies will remain in the LDP and NFP and the situation will remain confused (laugh). Such a situation will really pose problems for the electorate.

[Iwami] There is no doubt about what you just said. If a political force is established in all electoral districts, posting candidates who are of the non-LDP and non-NFP genre, the political situation will be more easily understood by the electorate. We would like for politicians to work toward such a goal.

[Kaieda] If that political change is made, we may be able to organize a force of 100 politicians. Without achieving such a goal, the best we could muster would be a force of about 30. Even the Sakigake Party has no other means of survival.

Japan-China Relations Should be Used as a Basis for a Decision on the Li Deng Hui Issue—Dream of Making a Speech in Chinese at the People's Auditorium

[Iwami] I must admit that I am getting a clear picture of the issue you are presenting. Incidentally, what is it that motivated you to enter politics?

[Kaieda] My father was a political reporter (with the MAINICHI), causing me to exercise an interest in politics from my early childhood.

[Iwami] Your father was a prominent senior to me (laugh).

[Kaieda] About the time of the 1960's security treaty turmoil, I had accompanied my father to purchase some horse-race wager sheets when we came across Inejiro Asanuma making a speech. He patted me on the head and I remember him as being a very large person. However, soon thereafter he was assassinated and the news proved to be a severe shock. It was about then that I decided I wanted to become a politician. However, having become one, I find it to be a difficult profession.

[Iwami] Although a difficult profession, I think you became a politician at a stage of change. By the way, I understand you are well-versed in the Chinese language.

[Kaieda] I have been given the name of Banri and have always liked to read Chinese classics. In reference to the recent issue associated with Li Deng Hui of Taiwan, I think we have an opportunity to do China a favor. We should take early action in telling China that Japan and China have common interests and we should take action to clarify our position. Doing so would exemplify what should be long-range Asian diplomacy.

[Iwami] Politics involves bargaining in a sense, so we should strike when the opportunity presents itself.

[Kaieda] However, Japan has failed to take any action whatsoever.

[Iwami] By the way, where did you learn Chinese?

[Kaieda] I studied at a Chinese Language School in the evenings for three years. I have many friends who are students or young scholars from China.

[Iwami] How many trips have you made to China?

[Kaieda] I have gone there about 30 times. The only area I have not visited in China is the northeastern region.

[Iwami] The northeastern region is a nice area. Incidentally, do you have any dreams as a politician in relation to China?

[Kaieda] My dream is to make a speech in the Chinese language in the People's Auditorium (laugh).

[Iwami] Terrific! However, I would say that the time for realizing that dream is not too far off. I thank you for spending time with me today as part of your busy schedule.

Banri Kaieda Age 46. Elected once. Graduate of Law Department, Keio University. Financial and economic commentator. Elected to House of Representatives for the first time in 1993. Served as permanent director of former JNP. Established and serves as president of "New Democratic Club" since 1994. Established and serves as representative committee member of "Tokyo Citizen 21" group since 1995. Books published include *Declaration of a Nation With Improved Living Conditions.*

Takao Iwami, Interviewer Born in 1935. Graduated from Law Department of Kyoto University in 1958. Employed by the MAINICHI SHIMBUN. Served as deputy chief of the Political Department, deputy chief of the Publishing Bureau and editor-in-chief of the SANDE MAINICHI, and deputy chief of the Editing Bureau, before being appointed as consultant to the Editing Bureau. Currently writes the MAINICHI SHIMBUN column titled, "Current Events and Future Projections" and works with radio and television on programs such as Television Asahi's "News Coverage for the Masses." He has published many books.

North Korea

ROK 22-23 Oct Military Exercises Criticized

SK2510050095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 25 Oct 95

["War Manoeuvres Against North in Forefront" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets on October 22 and 23 staged military exercises against the North, deploying Armed Forces in the forefront of the western sector of the front, according to military sources.

The puppets deployed about forty 105 mm guns and missile launching pads in the area of Paju County, western sector of the front, on October 23 and introduced more than 70 military vehicles fully loaded with lethal equipment on October 22.

They sent 40 odd transport helicopters and helicopter gunships of the puppet army to the sky above Munsan and Yonchon, western sector of the front, on October 22 and 23 for an operation for airlifting "commandoes" and an aerial strike exercise against the North.

The puppets also fired hundreds of bullets and shells in Paju and Yonchon Counties.

Paper Denounces 'Hwarang' Military Maneuvers

SK2510105195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 25 Oct 95

["MINJU CHOSON on Never-Ceasing War Gamble Against North Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam group's military manoeuvres dubbed "Hwarang," which involve huge Armed Forces, are a premeditated and deliberate move designed to disturb peace in Korea and obstruct its peaceful reunification by force of arms, invent a pretext to unleash a new war on the Korean peninsula and provoke a war at any cost, MINJU CHOSON says in a signed commentary today.

The analyst notes:

The frantic war gamble of the Kim Yong-sam group clearly shows again that their calls for "dialogue" and "improvement of inter- Korean relations" are a sheer lie and that they are arch warmaniacs.

The puppets are now staging one more manoeuvre dubbed "Hwarang," added to the "Foal Eagle 95" rehearsal, in an attempt to put down the struggle of the South Korean people for the punishment of those responsible for the May 18 Kwangju massacre which is gaining stronger momentum and prolong their remaining days. But, their efforts will only precipitate their destruction.

They should clearly see the situation and put an immediate halt to the foolish military adventure.

'Fair Solution' to Kwangju 'Problem' Discussed

SK2110110095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 21 Oct 95

["NODONG SINMUN on Way for Fair Solution to Kwangju Problem" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 21 (KCNA) — The developments of 15 years since the Kwangju uprising show tht if the Kwangju problem is to be settled fairly as demanded by the South Korean people, the truth behind the Kwangju massacre must be brought to light and, on that basis, its chief culprits be judged and punished by history and the people, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The May 1980 Kwangju incident was a fratricide without precedent in history. Thousands of peaceful demonstrators calling for democracy were killed in cold blood.

In a signed article titled "What Do Developments of 15 Years Since Kwangju Uprising Show?" the paper says:

Probe into the truth behind the Kwangju incident and punishment of the chief culprits are an unavoidable, urgent task for independence and democracy in South Korea society.

The lesson of the Kwangju bloodshed and the developments of 15 years since then show that if the South Korean people's desire for independence, democracy and reunification is to be realised, the colonial military fascist dictatorship rooted in the Kwangju bloodbath — the "Fifth Republic," the "Sixth Republic" and now the Kim Yong-sam regime — must be liquidated.

If the Kwangju problem is to be settled as demanded by the South Korean people, the truth behind the Kwangju massacre must be brought to light and, on that basis, its chief culprits — the Chon Tu-hwan- No Tae-u group — be judged by history and an end be put to domination and interference of outside forces, the manipulator of the massacre. To this end, the Kim Yong-sam group must be overthrown, first of all, a group that is making a desperate effort to prop up the tottering government in conspiracy with the remnants of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics." This is the only way to solve the Kwangju problem fairly and prevent the recurrence of military coup d'etat and fratricide — a challenge to history otherwise it would be impossible to bring independence and democracy to South Korean society and reunify the country.

Overseas Relief Aid for Flood Damage Reported

SK2410234995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2109 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the flood damage suffered in many areas of the DPRK, many governments and international organizations have decided to send relief materials to our country.

The PRC Government decided to provide our country with emergency relief materials worth 30 million yuan so as to help the flood victims overcome the damage, restore production, and make a new start of housekeeping.

The Syrian Arab Republic Government decided to provide our country with 20,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of barley.

The Swiss Confederal Government decided to provide our country with initial emergency food relief worth 3 million Swiss francs.

Meanwhile, the World Food Program will provide 20,250 tonnes of white rice and 675 tonnes of edible oil worth $8.85 million.

Many other countries and international organizations have decided to send a large quantity of humanitarian relief aid to our people stricken by the flood.

Humanitarian relief materials from Russia have already been distributed to flood victims.

The office of the chief of the United Nations Mission in our country, who is also the representative of the United Nations Development Program, directly conveyed a large quantity of relief materials, including clothes and daily necessities, to some flood victims in the Sinuiju area.

Meanwhile, a relief delegation dispatched from the Medecins Sans Frontieres [Doctors without borders] is now conducting humanitarian activities for flood victims with tens of tonnes of pharmaceuticals in areas the delegation visited to survey the damage.

In addition, a relief delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross Societies and Red Crescent Societies is also carrying out humanitarian activities in our country.

Japan's 'National Fund for Comfort Women' Viewed

SK2110113295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 21 Oct 95

[NODONG SINMUN on 'National Fund for Comfort Women' in Japan" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 21 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today views the "National Fund for Former Comfort Women" in Japan as a crafty scheme of the Japanese authorities to avoid the state responsibility and compensation for the "comfort women" issue.

In an article titled "Japan Must Not Resort to Sleight of Hand in 'Comfort Women,' the paper says the apology and compensation for the crimes against the former "comfort women" are what the Japanese Government is obliged to do. The crime of unheard-of military sexual slavery and raping was committed under the auspices of the government was its policy.

The settlement of the issue is not a matter of the past but a problem of the present.

Nevertheless, the Japanese authorities are claiming that the period of the prescription expired and the governmen not held responsible for the issue, in a bid to shove off the responsibility of compensation to the people.

The "national fund" is motivated by this purpose.

It is a deceptive drama to sidestep the demand for compensation to the former "comfort women."

"Mercy" and "charity fund" they are talking about are up an insult to and mockery of the women. But the Japanese authorities are trying to settle the issue by means of "national fund." They intend to collect money from people through the "national fund" and give the money to former "comfort women" who are still alive, in the name of "charity fund." However, this is a despicable trick to free themselves from the state responsibility. Such a trick cannot work today. The Japanese authorities must clearly see the situation and honestly discharge their obligation, not resorting to sleight of hand.

PRC Defense Minister Attends Embassy Banquet

SK2510071195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0103 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The DPRK Embassy in China arranged a banquet at the embassy building on 23 October on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

Portraits of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il- song and the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il were hung in front of the banquet hall.

Invited to the banquet were Chi Haotian, vice chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission, state councillor, and minister of national defense; Tang Jiaxuan, vice foreign minister; Li Chengren, deputy head of the CPC International Liaison Department; Zhou Ziyu, deputy director of the People's Liberation Army [PLO] General Political Department; Zuo Jianchang, deputy director of the PLO General Logistics Department; Li Guohua, vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation; Guo Lin, vice railways minister; Li Junlian, deputy political commissar of the PLO Navy; Chen Qian, deputy political commissar of the PLO Air Force; (Yang Guangyi), deputy commander of the Beijing Military Region; Xu Qun, vice president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; and other Chinese functionaries of the sectors concerned.

DPRK Ambassador to China Chu Chang-chun and the embassy staff members were present at the banquet.

Ambassador Chu Chang-chun and Chinese National Defense Minister Chi Haotian spoke at the banquet.

National Defense Minister Chi Haotian stated: At a grave time when the newly born DPRK was invaded by outside forces 45 years ago, upholding the appeal of the CPC and President Mao Zedong, the CPV rushed to the Korean front and fought in cooperation with the people and the Armed Forces of the DPRK while bearing up the banner of the struggle to resist the U.S. aggression and support Korea and to protect our homes and defend our motherland, thus smashing the U.S. aggressors. As a result of the three-year bloody struggle, the peoples and the Armed Forces of China and the DPRK finally achieved the great victory in the Korean fatherland liberation war.

Then, he said: This victory not only defended the DPRK's liberation and revolutionary gains, but also made a valuable contribution to protecting peace in Asia and the world.

He also stated: President Kim Il-song, the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], and the DPRK Government and people boundlessly loved and took care of the CPV officers and men like their own children. The Chinese people and the CPV will never forget this and express their heartfelt gratitude.

He continued: Under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song and the WPK, the DPRK people and People's Army officers and men implemented the revolutionary line for independence in political affairs, self-reliance in economy, and self-defense in national defense by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude for over 40 years since the cease-fire, and quickly healed the wound of the war by vigorously carrying out the three revolutions — ideological, technological, and cultural — thus achieving brilliant victories in their struggle for socialist construction and for modernization of national defense.

The DPRK Armed Forces and people recently held grand celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the WPK and fully demonstrated the brilliant results they had achieved under the wise leadership of the WPK. The Chinese people are truly happy with the results achieved by the Korean people in all fields and sincerely wish the people and the Armed Forces of the DPRK will take over President Kim Il-song's lifelong intent to achieve a new and greater success in various kinds of work under the leadership of the WPK headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He stressed: China and the DPRK are friendly and neighboring countries that share the borderline, and the friendship between the two countries' peoples and the Armed Forces was established in the ties of blood and has planted its roots in the minds of the peoples and the Armed Forces of the two countries. It is the Chinese party and government's steadfast long-term policy, as well as the Chinese people and the Armed Forces' sincere desire, to constantly consolidate and develop China-DPRK friendship.

He also stated: To consolidate and develop the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK under the current complicated international situation not only confirms the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples of China and the DPRK, but also is good for peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia and the world.

After saying that the Chinese people and the Armed Forces value the China-DPRK friendship, he concluded by expressing his firm belief that the China-DPRK friendship will be even more beautifully developed by the joint efforts and careful attention of both China and the DPRK.

The participants of the banquet wished the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song an eternal life and toasted to the traditional blood friendship between the peoples of the DPRK and China, to the good health and long life of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, and to the good health and long lives of Chinese leaders, including respected Comrades Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin.

PRC Defense Minister on Mutual Relations

SK2510052995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 25 Oct 95

["Chinese People and Army Value Sino-Korean Friendship, Says Chinese Defense Minister" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 23 (KCNA) — Chi Haotian, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, state councillor and minister of National Defense, made a speech at a party given at the Korean Embassy in Beijing on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] into the Korean war.

He said that the Chinese people and army value the Sino-Korean friendship much. He expressed the belief that the Sino-Korean friendship will be kept in full bloom by the joint efforts and meticulous care of China and Korea.

Forty-five years ago, the CPV entered into the Korean war under the banner of "resisting America and aiding Korea, safeguarding the home and defending the motherland" in response to the call of the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Zedong, at the rigorous time when the young Democratic People's Republic of Korea was invaded by outside forces, and waged a three-year bloody struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, shoulder to shoulder with the people and army of Korea, and finally won a great victory in the fatherland liberation war of Korea, he noted, and said:

During the hard-fought war President Kim Il-song, the Workers' Party, the government and people of Korea boundlessly loved and looked after the officers and men of the Chinese People's Volunteers like their own sons and daughters. The Chinese people and People's Volunteers will remember this forever and express sincere thanks for this.

The Chinese people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements made by the Korean people in all fields over the 40 odd years after the ceasefire, and sincerely wish the Korean people and army greater new success in their work, as intended by President Kim Il-song in his lifetime, under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

To constantly consolidate and develop the Sino-Korean friendship is the steadfast, long-standing policy of the Chinese party and government and the genuine desire of the Chinese people and army.

Hwang Chang-yop Hosts Reception for Lao Party

SK2210085295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0835 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 22 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) gave a reception at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Saturday for the visiting delegation of the Control Commission of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) led by Maychantane Sengmany [spelling of name as received], member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., LPRP and head of the Central Party-State Control Commission.

In his speech Secretary of the WPK Central Committee Hwang Chang- yop said the two parties of Korea and Laos have particular bonds of friendship as they have invariably maintained the revolutionary principles in the complicated international situation.

He highly estimated the achievements made by the Laotian party in making the country prosperous and improving the people's living standards by strengthening the party's unity and its ties with the masses of the people and enhancing the leadership role of the party in the revolution and construction.

"The Workers' Party and people of Korea, true to the noble intention of the leaders of the two countries, will make every possible effort to further develop friendship and solidarity between the parties and peoples of the two countries," he declared.

Speaking next, the head of the Laotian party delegation said the parties and peoples of the two countries established friendly and cooperative relations in the common struggle against imperialism and for socialism. "The Laotian party and people will make all efforts to put the relations on a higher stage," he stressed.

"We are convinced that the Korean people will successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of respected President Kim Il- song under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il," he said, and continued:

"Today the Korean people are vigorously struggling against imperialism in the complicated international situation under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il."

Noting that the party, government and people of Laos will struggle side by side with the WPK, he declared that they will fully support the WPKs line and policies for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Document Adopted at NAM Summit Viewed

SK2510111695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1010 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The final document which was adopted at the 11th Non-aligned summit meeting reaffirmed the support to the efforts of the Korean people for the reunification of the country.

Referring to the Korean question, it said:

The heads of state and government expressed concern over the fact that the Korean peninsula has been still divided despite of [as received] the desire and aspiration of the Korean people, and reaffirmed the support to the Korean people's efforts to reunify the country on the basis of the principles which were clarified in the July 4, 1972, North-South joint statement and of the agreement dated February, 1992.

They noted that to guarantee fair peace and security on the Korean peninsula is important not only for the common prosperity of the Korean people but also for peace and security in Northeast Asia and the world.

The final document expressed the hope that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will be settled in a peaceful way through the complete implementation of the Geneva framework agreement and the Kuala Lumpur joint press statement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

Kim Chong-il Work Shows Benefits of Socialism

952C0182A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN
in Korean 15 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by Kim Hong-yong: "A Programmatic Guiding Principle to Adhere to in the Chuche Ideology Indoctrination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today marks the ninth anniversary of the publication of the immortal classic work by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il titled "On Several Questions in the Chuche Ideology Indoctrination."

The writing, published on 15 July 1986, is a monumental work that further deepened and developed the chuche ideology, lending powerful testimony to its greatness, and a programmatic work elucidating theoretical and administrative tasks in strengthening the chuche ideology indoctrination work in a manner consistent with demands of the developing realities.

Noting that the chuche ideology indoctrination is the indoctrination in the unitary ideology of our party, it elucidates that what is important in it is to make party members and the working people have the correct standpoint toward the chuche of the revolution and firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader in themselves, and to clearly recognize the superiority of socialist system. It, therefore, has become an immortal militant banner of struggle to further improve and strengthen our party's ideological work and add luster to our way of socialism.

In the past period, the classic work has been brilliantly embodied in our party's ideological work for the conversion of the whole society to the chuche ideology, and in our people's struggle to build socialism, displaying its great vitality and fully demonstrating its validity.

The chuche ideology, as the immutable guiding ideology of our party, has become an unfailing motto of struggle and life and a faith of our people. Our whole society is full of the chuche ideology — and only the chuche ideology. All the people breathe, think and act solely by the dictates of the chuche ideology, while the revolution and construction proceed with the chuche ideology as the guiding principle, through and through. Our proud realities — vibrant with chuche, invincible with chuche, and majestic with chuche — are the precious fruition of the sagacious leadership [yongdo] of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who ceaselessly stepped up the chuche ideology indoctrination from early on.

The great significance and vitality of the classic work lies, first of all, in the fact that it inspired party members and the working people to even more resolutely defend and adhere to the great chuche ideology as the faith engraved on their hearts.

To defend and adhere to the revolutionary ideology of the leader [suryong] is the basic guarantee for the consummation of the revolutionary cause of the working class. The revolution is essentially a process of embodying the revolutionary ideology of the leader. Only by defending and adhering to the revolutionary ideology of the leader can we carry forward the lifeline of the revolution steadfastly generation after generation, advancing the revolution victoriously and bringing it to successful conclusion as intended by the leader.

Important in defending and adhering to the ideology of the leader is to develop and enrich it infinitely in a manner consistent with demands of the times and the developing revolution, and to bring the masses of people to realize its greatness by experience and build it into their faith.

In the classic work, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il deepened and developed the principles and contents of the chuche ideology to the full, flawlessly demonstrating that the chuche ideology is the most scientific revolutionary theory for the liberation of man in a self-dependence era.

As elucidated in it, the revolutionary quality of an ideology is determined by how resolutely it defends the independent stand and attitude of man, and how scientifically it explains ways and means to realize it. If a revolutionary ideology is to serve as a powerful ideological weapon making true contributions to the shaping of man's destiny, it has to be developed and systematized with the focus on man, and flawless in substance.

The chuche ideology is an out-and-out revolutionary ideology, putting it forth as the primary goal f the revolution to defend and realize the independent stand and attitude — which is the life of human beings as a social existence — and demanding that the revolution is continued to the end until that goal is achieved. It established an anthropocentric philosophic view of the world placing man in the position of the master of the world for the first time in history to explain the intrinsic nature of the world and its inevitable change and development. It also presented new explanations of the intrinsic nature of society and its inevitable change and development with the focus on man, fully elucidating guidelines for the revolution and construction. The chuche ideology, precisely, is the consummate revolutionary doctrine of our times providing the most correct view and viewpoint about nature and society, and teaching the accomplished revolutionary theories, tactics, strategies, and guidance methods. At the same time, the classic work made it clear that ideologically, the chuche ideology rejects narrow-minded exclusionism and embraces all progressive ideologies contributing to the realization of man's independent stand and attitude.

Thanks to the classic work, the scientific and revolutionary nature of the chuche ideology, and its absolute position and superiority in the history of man's ideological development, were proved positively and thoroughly. Thus, it has become possible for party members and the working people to arm themselves even more thoroughly with the chuche ideology, firmly believing that the chuche ideology is the only guiding ideology of our times that can lead the self-reliance cause of the masses.

Particularly significant is the ideology shown in the classic work that each of the various forms of indoctrination — such as the class indoctrination, the indoctrination in party policy, the indoctrination in revolutionary tradition, and the indoctrination in socialist patriotism — constitutes a link in the ideological indoctrination to arm people with the chuche ideology, the unitary ideology of our party. The enunciation of this ideology made it possible to firmly ensure unitariness in the ideological work of our party and to conduct the indoctrination in the chuche ideology more deeply and more broadly. Thus, it made it possible to thoroughly ensure the purity of the chuche ideology, eliminating the possibility of encroachment by any unhealthy ideologies foreign to it. This is an outstanding, immortal achievement by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in his strenuous effort to defend and add luster to the chuche ideology.

The significance and vitality of the classic work also lies in the fact that it laid out, in full measure, theories concerning the chuche of the revolution and the revolutionary view of the leader, thereby providing a mighty ideological weapon for preparing party members and the working people as truly chuche-type revolutionaries.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out:

"Most important in the chuche ideology indoctrination is to make party members and the working people have a correct understanding about the chuche of the revolution and firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader in themselves.

To prepare party members and the working people as truly chuche-type revolutionaries is a basic requirement for the conversion of the whole society to the chuche ideology. Important here is for them to have a correct understanding about the chuche of the revolution and firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader in themselves.

In the classic work, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il fully elucidated the theories concerning the chuche of the revolution and the revolutionary view of the leader. Clearly stated in it is the ideology that the chuche of the revolution is the unified body of the leader, the party, and the masses, and that only when the masses of people unite organizationally and ideologically under the leadership of the party and the leader can they become the self-dependent component of the chuche of the revolution and shape their destiny independently and creatively. It also elucidates that, in the socio-political life in which the leader is the top brain and the party constitutes the pivot, and in which the leader, the party, and the masses form one life sharing their fate together, the relationship based on the revolutionary ethics and comradely love prevails, with all people helping and loving one another.

The classic work thus thoroughly laid out its ideological theories concerning the chuche of the revolution and the revolutionary view of the leader. And this brought all party members and the working people to positively feel their loyalty to the party and the leader as a lofty demand of life, and to uphold the leader highly and wholeheartedly. It also put forth ideological theories on making party members and the working people fully realize the greatness of the party and the leader and, in particular, on conducting in a substantive manner the study programs of the works of the Great Leader, thereby providing immaculate guidelines in bringing up truly chuche-type revolutionaries.

Our people's ideological and mental features today have reached a remarkably lofty plane. No other peoples in the world are so fervent and so lofty in their features, in the loyalty and piety to their party and leader, and in the devotion to their society and collective, as our people are. The lofty ideological and mental features shown by our people the past year, amid their deep yearning for the Great Leader whom they lost unexpectedly, bear vivid testimony to this fact.

Their noble features upholding the leader highly reflect the energetic leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who put forth the creative theory about the revolutionary view of the leader and who sagaciously guided the work to arm all the people with it. Realities eloquently speak that when the ideological theories set forth in the classic work are thoroughly embodied, party members and the working people can be fostered as true revolutionaries with the loyalty to the leader engraved on their hearts as No.1 life, and that the wholehearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks can be consolidated in every way.

The significance and vitality of the classic work also lies in the fact that it paved the way for getting the superiority of our way of socialism into fuller play.

To give the superiority of socialism fuller play is an important requirement for defending and adhering to — and bringing to ultimate consummation — the socialist cause. Only by bringing the superiority of socialism into full play is it possible to make people believe in socialism from experience in the actual life, keep that faith engraved on their hearts and wage devoted struggle for its realization.

Clearly elucidated in the classic work are the intrinsic superiority of socialist system to capitalist one and all theoretical and practical problems that have to be resolved before it is put into full play.

The superiority of socialist system can be correctly explained only from an anthropocentric viewpoint, through and through. It is because social system does exist for people — and to serve people. The classic work elucidates that the intrinsic difference between socialist and capitalist systems boils down to that between collectivism and individualism, or between the collective's socio-political life and the individual's physical life. It then makes it clear that the intrinsic superiority of socialist system lies in the fact that it best suits man's inherent demand for living an immortal socio-political life, and for enjoying a self-dependent and creative life to the full, helping and leading one another. This ideology made it possible for us to overcome the one-sided view seeking the superiority of socialist system only in the social ownership of the means of production, and to get all party members and the working people to comprehend the true superiority of socialist system from experience, even more deeply.

At the same time, the classic work deals with the questions of preparing party members and the working people politically, ideologically, and culturally, of thoroughly embodying the Theses on Socialist Rural Questions and the Taean Work System, and of maintaining the economic construction line for a self-supporting national economy. Thus, it shows the most revolutionary guiding principle that enables us to strictly adhere to our way of socialism centering on the masses of people, in any storms and ordeals, and to give full play to its superiority.

In our country, socialism has been on a triumphant march in recent years without showing the slightest slump or stalemate, despite the unprecedentedly severe trials and hardships caused by anti-socialist maneuvers of imperialists and reactionaries. The greater the difficulties, and the heavier the tasks, the more vigorously has our party conducted the chuche ideology indoctrination for party members and the working people, and the more sagaciously has it led them to strictly adhere to our party's lines and principles of socialist construction embodying the chuche ideology. Thus, our way of socialism today is giving full play to its superiority and strength in all the political, economic, cultural, and military realms, and our people are enjoying a happy, self-dependent and creative life to their hearts' content.

The deeper we go into the ideology elucidated in the classic work and take it to our hearts, the more keenly we feel the greatness of the chuche ideology and the correctness of the guiding principle of our party on the ideological work.

All party members and the working people will strictly adhere to the ideological theories contained in the classic work and continue to thoroughly embody them and, by doing so, consolidate our socialist ideological position into an iron-clad bastion and make our socialist fatherland shining with chuche richer and stronger.

Kim Chong-il Illuminates Ideological Work

952C0182B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 19 Jul p 3

[Article by O Taek-song: "A Flawless Elucidation of the Essence of the Ideological Work"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his classic work titled "To Give Priority to the Ideological Work Is an Indispensable Requirement for the Attainment of the Socialist Cause," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has flawlessly elucidated the essence of the ideological work of the working-class party.

To correctly elucidate the essence of the ideological work of the working-class party fighting for socialism is an important task in consolidating the socialist ideological position and advancing the socialist cause victoriously. Only when the essence of the ideological work is elucidated with scientific validity can the working-class party conduct its ideological work in consistency with its mission and its inherent nature and successfully solve all theoretical and practical problems arising in it.

In this writing, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il formulated anew, in a scientific fashion, the essential points in the working-class party's ideological work, based on an analysis — conducted with his outstanding ideological and theoretical wisdom and clairvoyant insight — of the precious practical experiences of our revolution and lessons of the international communist movement.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, pointed out:

"The ideological work of the working-class party fighting for socialism consists of the ideological theoretical work to deepen and develop the socialist ideology, in consistency with demands of the times and the developing revolution, and the ideological indoctrination work to arm the masses of people with the socialist ideology."

The ideological work of the working-class party fighting for socialism essentially consists of the ideological theoretical work and the ideological indoctrination work. The ideological theoretical work is for deepening and developing the socialist ideology in consistency with demands of the times and the developing revolution, while the ideological indoctrination work is aimed at arming the masses of people with the socialist ideology.

The working-class party's ideological work is, first of all, the ideological theoretical work to deepen and develop the socialist ideology in a way consistent with demands of the times and the developing revolution.

The working-class party is the political organization leading the masses' self-dependence cause. In order for the party to satisfactorily fulfill its mission and role as the leading political organization, it is required to have a correct guiding ideology and theory. Only when it meets this requirement can it put forth a clear-cut goal and direction of struggle and the method to achieve it, organizing and mobilizing the broad masses to attain the socialist cause.

Socialist ideologies and theories are created in the course of development of the working class' revolutionary struggle, based on a generalization of demands of the times and experiences in the revolutionary practice. And they serve as an ideological theoretical weapon and a guiding principle of struggle for the masses of people fighting for socialism. Environments and conditions surrounding a revolutionary struggle in progress are by no means fixed ones; history goes on and realities continue to change and develop. There can be no prescription universally applicable to all revolutions and construction, and to all eras.

In our country, with the revolution and construction deepening and developing constantly and numerous new theoretical and practical issues emerging, the present era demands that the socialist ideology and theory be further deepened and developed. In addressing ready-made theories, the working-class party should first examine what historical demands they reflect and what premises they stand on, then it should develop them creatively in a way suitable to their characteristics and specific realities.

The starting point of the working-class party's ideological theoretical work is the current reality, not a ready-made theory. Fundamentally important is not whether it fits a ready-made theory, but whether it meets the demand and interest of the masses of people and suits the subjective and objective conditions of the given historical period.

It is a grave lesson of historical facts that if the working-class party fails to correctly conduct its ideological theoretical work and brings on revisionist degeneration or dogmatist stagnation, socialism can have no correct guiding principle and consequently is bound to suffer turns and twists, and failures. In the past period, in countries that had been building socialism, the socialist ideology suffered distortions and degenerations at the hands of traitors of the revolution who were in the leadership positions of the party and state; as the result, in those countries, socialism lost its direction and deviated from its path, opening the door to the revival of capitalism. The collapse of socialism in those countries was, after all, caused by the want of scientific and revolutionary ideological theories or their degenerations. This shows that to constantly deepen and develop the socialist ideology is a matter affecting the destiny of socialism and, therefore, constituting an essential part of the ideological work.

The other aspect of the ideological work of the working-class party fighting for socialism is the ideological indoctrination work to arm the masses of people with the socialist ideology.

Arming the masses firmly with the socialist ideology is a decisive guarantee for strengthening the chuche of socialist society and enhancing its role and thereby advancing the socialist cause victoriously. The chuche of socialist construction is the masses of people firmly armed with the socialist ideology. Without them, it is inconceivable to establish or successfully operate a socialist government or socialist economic system. A decisive factor determining the development of socialist society and its destiny is, through and through, the masses of people armed with the socialist ideology. Therefore, the working-class party, while providing correct guiding principles and theories of the socialist cause, should at the same time conduct creditably the ideological indoctrination work to arm the masses with them. Only by conducting the ideological indoctrination work well is it possible to awaken the masses ideologically and firmly unite them organizationally, ensuring that they acquit themselves fully of their responsibility and role as the chuche of socialism, and as the masters of the state and society. When they struggle in firm unity with high ideological consciousness, the masses can display inexhaustible strength and wisdom, achieving great innovations in remaking nature and reforming society. The matchless superiority and invincible might of socialism lies in the fact that it brings the inexhaustible strength and wisdom of the masses into full play. This fact precisely shows the superiority and strength of the socialist ideology.

The superiority and power of the socialist ideology is ensured through the ideological work. In other words, when the working-class party conducts the ideological indoctrination work in a substantive manner arming the broad masses firmly with the socialist ideology, the masses can build that ideology into their faith and it can be turned into a powerful material strength in attaining the socialist cause. Needless to say, the socialist ideology reflects the aspirations and desire for self-dependence and, for that reason, it has greater traction and can be more readily accepted by the masses than any other ideologies. Also, socialist economic relations based on socialist ownership provide the material condition for their arming with the socialist ideology. However, the mere fact that there exists the socialist ideology or that socialist economic relations have been established does not necessarily mean that the masses of people come to have the socialist ideology on their own. The task of doing away with obsolete ideologies in the consciousness of people and arming them with the socialist ideology can be accomplished only through the ideological indoctrination and the ideological struggle waged steadfastly and positively. Realities show that unless the ideological indoctrination work is conducted positively, people are not likely to keenly feel the preciousness of socialist system and be grateful, and that their revolutionary fervor would gradually cool down and be replaced by a preference for an easy-going life, even if the socialist society should provide all conditions and benefits for them to enjoy a self-dependent and creative life. Therefore, in order for the working-class party to consolidate the socialist ideological position into an invincible one, it must push the ideological indoctrination work vigorously along with the ideological theoretical work.

It is indeed of important significance in the development of revolutionary theories of the working class concerning the ideological work, and in the attainment of the socialist cause, that the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has scientifically elucidated the essence of the ideological work.

The significance lies, first of all, in that the essence of the ideological work thus flawlessly elucidated for the first time in history laid the foundation on which to fully unfold and systematize the revolutionary theories of the working class concerning the ideological work.

To correctly elucidate the essence of the ideological work is the starting point, and an indispensable premise, in bringing theories of the ideological work to perfection. The scientific elucidation of the revolutionary essence of the ideological work has given a fundamental basis to the importance of the ideological work and its inevitable priority in the attainment of the socialist cause, making it possible to fully clarify the basic mission and content of the ideological work and all theoretical and practical problems arising in the ideological work of the working-class party fighting for socialism, including principles and methods to adhere to in the ideological work.

The significance of the scientific elucidation also lies in the fact that it has provided a guiding principle enabling the working-class party to conduct its ideological work without the slightest tilting or meandering.

In order to push the ideological work with no biased tendency, it is necessary to maintain the focus equally on the ideological theoretical work and the ideological indoctrination work. In socialist society where ideology is life, stagnation and degeneration of the socialist ideology leads to the degeneration of everything else. Therefore, the working-class party should pay utmost attention to the ideological theoretical work to deepen and develop the socialist ideology in consistency with demands of the times and the developing revolution. However, inasmuch as the ideological theoretical work is needed for the ideological indoctrination work, theories for the sake of theories have noting to contribute to the attainment of the socialist cause. History shows that socialism would be doomed should socialist society abandon its ideological work and shift to the capitalist method of moving people with money to promote individualism and egoism and spread the bourgeois, money-is-everything thought among people. This shows that the classic formulation of the ideological theoretical work and the ideological indoctrination work as constituting the essence of the working-class party's ideological work serves as a precious guiding principle in consolidating the socialist ideological position and enhancing the role of ideology so as to advance the socialist cause victoriously.

The scientific formulation of the essence of the ideological work by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in his classic work this time is a scientific theoretical summation of his precious experiences accumulated during his prolonged, sagacious guidance for the socialist cause. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who early on presented his ideological theories of chuche, resolved all problems arising in socialist construction by ideologically activating the masses of people and enhancing their ideological consciousness, thus making it sure for our party to set brilliant examples in the socialist ideological work. The theory concerning the essence of the ideological work, in which our party's rich experiences in the socialist ideological work are generalized and synthesized, is the ideological theoretical guiding principle for the working-class parties fighting for socialism to adhere to steadfastly.

We should fully understand and thoroughly embody the essence of the ideological work as elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in his classic work "To Give Priority to the Ideological Work Is an Indispensable Requirement for the Attainment of the Socialist Cause" and, by doing so, further consolidate our socialist ideological position into an invincible one.

Article Calls for Unity Around Leader

952C0183B Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 22 Jul 95 p 2

[Article by Choe Chong-hon: "Wholehearted Unity Is the Foundation of the Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Currently, all our people throughout the country are vigorously accelerating socialist construction by keeping their pledge of fidelity to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche from generation to generation through to ultimate fulfillment and directing as much more loyalty and filial duty to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il as their unfulfilled loyalty to the departed fatherly leader. This is a noble expression of the fervent loyalty of our people who are united in one mind around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "The wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the people is our greatest pride and constitutes a decisive guarantee for all victories."

Unity is a basic requirement of the revolution. A revolutionary movement begins with unity and forges ahead by the power of unity. A united people are capable of accomplishing whatever tasks successfully. Nothing is more important in revolution than unity; and a revolution without unity is unthinkable.

Unity is an essential requirement in carving out man's destiny. Only when united can the masses meet their inherent demands satisfactorily by such an enormous synergic force that is beyond the reach of any individuals. Unity arises as a more urgent question in the revolutionary struggle of the working class, which marks a high stage in the struggle of the masses to chart their own destiny. Only by the power of unity can the working class attain class emancipation and satisfy its basic demands and interests. The most precious unity in the revolutionary struggle of the working class is wholehearted unity.

Wholehearted unity is the kind of unity in which the leader and the people are brought together in one mind and will; in other words, it is an immortal unity in which all the people are tightly united in terms of ideological consciousness, under one center and one ideology. Such unity is the foundation of society.

To say that wholehearted unity is the foundation of society is to say that nothing is more important than wholehearted unity in the revolutionary struggle of the masses and that wholehearted unity, as the foundation of the revolution, constitutes a sure guaranty for the victorious advance and completion of the revolution.

Wholehearted unity is a decisive guaranty for the victorious advance and completion of the cause of socialism.

The road to socialism is an untrodden path that has to be explored for the first time. On this road there are fierce class struggle, formidable social and economic changes, and an acute confrontation with the imperialists. Therefore, to win victory in the struggle for socialism, there must be the power of unity and solidarity on the part of the masses. Needless to say, various subjective and objective factors come into play as socialism marches on. By the subjective factor is meant the masses united closely around the party and the leader, and by the objective factor is meant social and economic relations and material wherewithal. Of the two, the subjective factor is the decisive one. No matter how advantageous the social and economic relations and material means may be, it is impossible to win victory in the revolution if the power of the subject is weak. The power of the subject plays a decisive role in the revolution. In the revolution, not material and technological, but wholehearted unity is almighty. As long as there is the power of wholehearted unity, it is possible to consolidate and develop the socialist system, carry out whatever economic construction programs successfully, and turn adverse conditions into favorable conditions and misfortunes into blessings, without fear even if a large army should pounce on us. The working class' history of revolutionary struggle tells that when united in one mind, even a small country can beat a strong enemy and win victory all the time, but that when divided, even a country and people with a long history and tradition and a strong economic and military power cannot avert failure and vicissitudes in the struggle for socialism, unable to beat back the counterrevolutionary offensives of the enemies.

Wholehearted unity, which is the driving force and an essential requirement for the victorious advance and completion of the revolution, is not something that can be achieved automatically. Wholehearted unity can be brilliantly achieved and brought into play only by the outstanding leader of the working class. The leader is the center of unity and solidarity that makes the people goal-conscious and organized and bring them together as a political force. He is the center of leadership leading the masses to victory by scientific theories, strategies, and tactics. To the people, no fortune is so great as to have a great leader of the revolution who will lead their cause of self-dependence sagaciously, with his uncommon wisdom, outstanding leadership ability, and noble virtues. Only when they have a great leader can a people used to be subjected to maltreatment become a great people capable of charting their destiny on their own, and can even a small country become a strong and dignified power capable of achieving unbroken development and prosperity.

The beginning of the history of wholehearted unity coincides with the appearance of an outstanding leader. In our country, the moment our people had the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as their great leader for the first time in their 5,000-year old history, the glorious history of wholehearted unity began to unfold which will shine for ever in the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

From the early days when he embarked upon the road of revolution bearing the destiny of the country and the nation on his shoulder, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song viewed unity as a basic requirement for victory in the revolution and founded the immortal chuche ideology, thereby illuminating the way for the revolution. He put every effort, heart and soul, into realizing the unity and solidarity of the revolutionary ranks with his noble comradely love and outstanding leadership. Enchanted by the greatness of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song who was exploring the way for the Korean revolution at its dawn, the young communists and the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters held him in high esteem as the center of unity and leadership and banded together closely around him and fought in accordance with his ideology, believing that the great leader is the sun of the nation and the destiny of the country and the people as well as their own destiny. Regarding loyalty to the leader as of vital importance, and believing that as long as there was the leader, the fatherland would gain independence without fail, they doggedly fought no matter where they were, be they on an isolated island or on the scaffold, by going through all sorts of difficulties and privations always with overflowing confidence and optimism. It was owing to this revolutionary unity of the revolutionary ranks which bound the leader and the fighters together with kindred ties around one center and under one ideology that the revolutionary fighters were able to win victory in the anti-Japanese war, even under the worst condition. In this process the precious tradition of wholehearted unity came to be established. By inheriting the tradition of wholehearted unity founded in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, our people were able to successfully fulfill the party building, nation building, and army building causes, accomplish the popular democratic revolution without an inch of deviation in spite of the confused and complex circumstances in the post-liberation period, and win a great victory in the fierce fatherland liberation war against the U.S. imperialists. The wholehearted unity of our people, who had faith in no one but the respected and beloved leader and who are rallied closely around him in terms of ideological will and moral obligation, is the source of the energies which enabled our people to erect in our fatherland a strong socialist state which is sovereign, self-supporting, and capable of defending itself, and to march forward vigorously, adorning the annals of our revolution with countless miracles and exploits. The glorious history of our revolution, embroidered with the annals of the revolutionary struggle of the working class and wholehearted unity, attests to the truth that wholehearted unity is a basic requirement of the revolution.

Wholehearted unity is our revolution's permanent banner of struggle.

Revolution has its continuity. The cause of revolution pioneered by the leader is carried on from one generation to another until it is fulfilled under the new leader [yongdoja] of the revolution infinitely loyal to his predecessor. Therefore, in order that the revolution originated by the leader may be carried through to completion, it is imperative to carry forward the tradition of unity from generation to generation. Unless the tradition of unity is carried forward from generation to generation, the bloodline of the revolution would be cut stymieing the revolutionary cause midway. Accordingly, the tradition of unity must be held fast to throughout the entire course of the revolution.

To carry on wholehearted unity is in essence to carry on its purity; and the purity of unity is secured when the right center of unity is upheld and the whole party and all the people are brought together around him on the basis of ideological will and a moral sense of obligation.

It has been a long time since the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il was upheld at the center of unity, and the whole party, the whole army, and all the people were united around him in one mind, thereby securing the center of unity in our country for generations to come and bringing the purity of unity to a new height. Our wholehearted unity is the most durable revolutionary unity banding all our people rocklike around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il on the basis of the great chuche ideology, and is the greatest unity and solidarity based on a noble comradely spirit and a revolutionary sense of obligation.

We have achieved the wholehearted unity which no force on earth can break and which has an illimitable force, and this achievement represents our greatest victory and gain in the course of fulfilling the revolutionary cause of chuche. Our success in achieving unequalled wholehearted unity while being blessed with the succession of great leaders from one generation to another provides a sure guarantee for the ultimate completion of the revolution and represents a matchless pride of our people.

The solidity of wholehearted unity depends on the greatness of the leader [yongdoja] who carries on the cause of the leader [suryong] before him. The greatness of the leader [yongdoja] is the basic factor in making the masses infinitely worship and follow the leader [suryong], entrust their fate to him voluntarily, and form a solid community bound together by common fate. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il—whom our people have in high esteem at the center of unity, the center of leadership, which is carried forward from generation to generation—is the supreme incarnation of loyalty and filial duty as one who embodies loyalty to the leader at its highest level, and is the peerless great man possessing a great thought and leadership ability and a noble love of humanity. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has developed and enriched still more the chuche ideology founded by the fatherly leader, has consolidated the wholehearted unity of the whole society like bedrock through politics of love and trust and broad-base politics, and has unfolded a new chapter in the history of transformation in our land on the strength of wholehearted unity. It is because we have the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il that the tradition of wholehearted unity founded by the respected and beloved leader has been brilliantly protected and held fast to, and that the bloodline of the revolutionary cause of chuche is being carried forward vigorously.

While walking down the glorious road of revolution with the great Comrade Kim Chong-il at the center, our people have been completely enchanted by his greatness and come to entertain the firm belief that Comrade Kim Chong-il is identical to the fate of the country and the nation, the life of the party, and the happiness of the people. All members of society, from the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, the first-generation revolutionaries, down to the new generation, are unquestionably worshiping and following the great Comrade Kim Chong-il holding him in reverence as the protector of their fate, as their father, and as the prop of their hearts. The songs of faith, such as "But for You There Would Be No Fatherland" and "We Will Win as Long as You Are There," are ringing out loud throughout the whole country. This graphically illustrates the mental sphere of our people, who with their fate wholly entrusted to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, are determined to share their fate and fortunes with the party and use their bodies literally as a fortress and shield to protect their leader [yongdoja].

All our people, accepting the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's thought and intentions as the only absolute truth, cogitate and act in accordance with the demands of his thought and intentions. Our wholehearted unity connecting the leader [yongdoja] and the people with one vein and one windpipe is the greatest unity unequalled in the communist movement in terms of the singleness of its center, the purity of its organizational and ideological foundations, and the loftiness of the kindred ties. It is owing to the wholehearted unity which has been solidified at a lofty height by the great leader [yongdoja] and which is more powerful than an atomic bomb that the base of our socialist revolution has been consolidated into an impregnable fortress, holding out a still brighter prospect on the road ahead for the revolution. This wholehearted unity serves as an all-powerful weapon for the invincible advance of our revolution and provides a sure guarantee for the ultimate fulfillment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

All our functionaries and workers must carry on the revolutionary cause of chuche from generation to generation until consummation under the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il by further strengthening wholehearted unity, which is the foundation of our revolution and the precious, invincible sword that we must carry with us to the end.

Tongchon County Said Conserving Electricity

SK2310102995 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 17 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the party's founding, the flames of struggle to increase production are vigorously spreading in Tongchon County. Therefore, the struggle to conserve electricity by highly upholding the party's intention is being vigorously carried out as an all-masses movement.

During the past several months, Tongchon County was successful in conserving 260,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Along with organizing staggered production, the county's power transmission and distribution stations helped in technological innovative work related to conserving electricity. By doing so, more electricity was produced with a small amount of electricity, and work to prevent leaking of electricity at the districts that are in charge of this work is being carried out substantially. Recently at the power transmission and distribution stations, work to install railway lines in place of its inferior lines were carried out again at the three kilometer section throughout Pangpo-ri and between Yongchon-ri and Nosang-ri, and some 10 kilometers of electric lines were changed into new ones. Therefore, it became possible to supply normal voltage in this region.

The struggle to reduce the level of electricity consumption and to conserve electricity to the utmost is being carried out actively in the organs and plants of the county.

At the work sites of the county's irrigation management office and the county's agricultural machine plant, several electric motors were replaced with electric motors that have appropriate capacity, and electric heat facilities were changed to other fuel facilities. Thus, much electricity is being conserved. At the fishery work site, the work of organizing staggered production is being carried out scrupulously, thus making it possible to greatly reduce the electricity load. Through this kind of method, in the county 17 transformers and 37 electric motors that have excessive capacity were replaced with appropriate ones. Thus it was possible to conserve some 4,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Power Industry Minister Interviewed on Energy

SK2210[illegible]21995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Functionaries and working class of the Ministry of Power Industry are achieving great innovations in power generation, bearing the great pride of having strongly displayed our people's invincibility by glorifying the 50th party founding anniversary as the winners' grand festival, while uniting in one heart around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. Reporter Kim Song-kun interviewed Yi Chi-chan, minister of power industry, and Ko Hong-suk, guiding personnel of the ministry.

[Begin recording] [Yi] All party members and working class of our electricity sector are making great achievements in power generation with the same spirit we had when we unsparingly displayed our people's single-hearted strength to the world by celebrating the 50th founding anniversary of the Workers Party of Korea as the grand festival of winners. Supung Power Plant, Kanggye Youth Power Plant, Taedonggang Hydraulic Power Generation Complex, and all other hydraulic power plants have fulfilled over 110 percent of their power generation plans. Pyongyang Thermal Power Generation Complex, Pukchang Thermal Power Generation Complex, and all other thermal power plants have recorded a high output of electricity, while preparing for the winter months and well managing equipment and water head with one will to unconditionally and thoroughly implement great General Kim Chong-il's guidance to the power industry.

In addition, power transmission complexes methodically conduct regular maintenance of equipment and distribute electricity without wasting a watt, bearing deep in their minds our party's intention not to waste the smallest amount of electricity and make our country and fatherland more prosperous. All party members and working class of the Ministry of Power Industry are highly enthusiastic.

[Ko] Indeed. Singing the song of faith "Let Us Advance Upholding the Red Flag of Revolution," all units of the Ministry of Power Industry are producing more electricity by making all generators in full operation at full capacity. With the same spirit, we will fulfill our duties in satisfactorily solving the electricity problem, which the fatherly leader cared so much in his lifetime, following the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. [end recording]

Article Warns Against Imperialist Ideology

952C0183A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 16 Jul 95 p 2

Article by An Chon-hun: "Acting as an Indoctrinator in Ideology and Culture Is a Basic Function of the Socialist State"]

((FBIS Translated Text)) The working-class party and state need to continually step up the ideological and cultural education of the people in order to successfully fulfill the cause of socialism. Only by stepping up the ideological and cultural education of the masses in a way consistent with the intrinsic nature of socialism is it possible to carry out political and economic tasks satisfactorily and give full play to the superiority and invincibility of socialism.

In his immortal classic "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il analyzed in depth the importance and significance of ideological and cultural eduction, and on this basis, formulated for the first time the doctrine that acting as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is one of the basic functions of the socialist state, and comprehensively clarified problems arising in fulfilling this function.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il points out as follows: "The socialist state leads and manages social life in its all aspects, political, economic, and cultural, in a unitary manner. Acting as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is a basic function of the socialist sate."

The function of the socialist state as a teacher in the development of socialist ideology and culture is in essence aimed at strengthening the independent ideological consciousness and creative ability of the masses.

Man is a transformer of nature and society, and the progress in remaking nature and society progresses in step with the development of humanity. To say that society develops is to say that man's position and role in the world improve, resulting in increases in the wealth of society and improvements in human relations. People's position and role are determined by the degree of their ideological consciousness and creative abilities. Therefore, enhancing the independent ideological consciousness and creative abilities of the masses arises as a fundamental issue in building and perfecting socialist society.

Independent ideological consciousness and creative ability are an essential prerequisite for remaking and transforming nature and society and one of the basic requirements for the development of socialist society. The fate of socialism and success in the cause of socialism depend on how the working-class party and state tackle the task of enhancing the independent ideological consciousness and creative abilities of the masses. This is the truth proven by the priceless experience of our revolution and the bitter lessons of those countries in which socialism has collapsed.

The thought elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il on the function of the socialist state as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is an outstanding thought based on a penetrating insight into the inevitability of the development of socialism.

Acting as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture becomes a basic function of the socialist state because, above all, such activity is an activity to raise people into true communist-type human beings.

To raise people into communist-type human beings is one of the most important requirements in fulfilling the cause of socialism and communism. Communist society is not only a society that has ample material wealth sufficient to make people enjoy an independent and creative life to their hearts' content, but it is at the same time a society in which people themselves are remolded into communist-type human beings.

To remodel people into communist-type human beings is to remold them into intelligent and potent human beings who are all armed airtight with communist ideology, have profound scientific knowledge, and are physically healthy and strong.

The task to raise people into mentally healthy, intelligent, and potent beings can be accomplished by promoting cultural development, such as the development of education and science, and by simultaneously carrying out the task to enhance ideological consciousness.

In socialist society ideological indoctrination inculcates revolutionary ideological consciousness in the minds of the people whereas the work of indoctrination in culture—including education and science, and literature and arts—contributes to cultivating a profound knowledge of nature and society and developing a healthy mind and a strong physique. The task to cultivate and develop in the people the ideological and mental ethos and temperament and a strong physique required of communist-type human beings, depends, in final analysis, on how the socialist state tackles and develops ideological and cultural work. When the socialist state strengthens its function to conduct and develop ideological and cultural work, it can raise people into men and women possessing revolutionary ideology, extensive knowledge, and a strong physic—the qualities required of independent human beings—and can successfully capture the two fortresses of socialist construction at the same time. For this reason, the function of acting as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture to cultivate the revolutionary view of the world in the minds of people and raise them into knowledgeable and revolutionary human beings becomes a basic function of the socialist state.

Another reason why playing the role of an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is one of the basic functions of the socialist state is that it spurs the development of socialist society.

Society society is a society that is led by socialist ideology and that develops with socialist ideology as its basic driving force. The intrinsic characteristic of socialist society lies in the fact that unlike capitalist society devoted to the pursuit of wealth, socialist society develops by the power of ideology and by the conscious activities of people armed with socialist ideology. How to prepare people and drive them into action in ideological terms is a basic problem on which depends the consolidation, development, and fate of socialist society. Only when the working-class society and state give priority to ideological work and ceaselessly accelerate it, is it possible to insure the political and ideological unity of society, develop socialist social relations based on comradely solidarity and cooperation, and successfully push forward socialist economic construction. Only by guarding the ideological base of socialism airtight can socialism have an invincible might and maintain its superiority and force of attraction in all domains, political, economic, cultural and military. For the working-class state to neglect ideological education would amount to abandoning the basics of socialism and invariably lead to a betrayal against socialism and to is collapse.

The factor that plays a decisive role in human activity is ideological consciousness. Whether socialism will march on triumphantly or collapse depends ultimately on how the working-class state sets the ideology of its people in motion under the leadership of the party.

Socialist society is a society that not only is driven forward by socialist ideology but also develops by virtue of the high level of knowledge and culture on the part of the workers.

The high level of knowledge and culture on the part of the workers is one of the basic factors guaranteeing the development of socialist society. When the masses—the main body leading the development of socialist society— are prepared as talented people possessing extensive knowledge and a high level of culture and technology necessary for the transformation of nature and society, as well as an independent ideological consciousness, then and only then will socialist construction accelerate still more. When people lack knowledge and ability necessary for social reform, no matter how acute their social consciousness may be, they cannot vigorously accelerate the revolution and construction nor give full play to the superiority of socialism. In socialist society, when the masses possess modern science and technology and a high cultural standard, along with revolutionary ideological consciousness, then and only then can they fulfill their duty and role truly as the driving force for the development of socialist society.

Indeed, how to arm the workers airtight ideologically and educate them so that they may possess a high level of technical and cultural knowledge becomes an important issue the outcome of which will determine the development and fate of socialism. That is why the socialist state strengthens its function as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture, regarding it as its basic requirement.

Still another reason why the function as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture becomes one of the basic functions of the socialist state is that this function serves the purpose of blocking the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration and securely protecting and defending socialism.

Combating the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration is an important requirement in establishing a noble ideological and cultural life ethos among the people and securely defending our way of socialism against the machinations of the enemies to bring it down from within. Corrupt bourgeois ideology and culture being spread by the imperialists are a poison gnawing at the wholesome ideology and cultural ethos of the people. Currently, the imperialists are viciously scheming to blow the winds of bourgeois liberalization into socialist countries in order to make them disintegrate from within. The prevailing situation demands that we work out foolproof measures to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration, step up the struggle against all stripes of reactionary ideology and culture and the bourgeois way of life, and block even the slightest manifestation of them from seeping into our midst. Whether we can thwart and frustrate the crafty and sinister attempts of the enemies and defend socialism and hold fast to it to the end depends on whether we will be able to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration. The function of an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is nothing other than activity to block such machinations of the imperialists and defend and hold fast to the cause of socialism until fulfillment by continuing to develop our socialist ideology and revolutionary culture. It then follows that the working-class state should vigorously push forward its function as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture, with a firm grip on it as its basic function.

In strengthening its role as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture, it is important that the socialist state provide an adequate condition for the masses so that they may enjoy a wholesome and rich ideological and cultural life to their hearts' content. State organizations should work out proper socialist statutory norms and regulations to suit the demands of the chuche ideology and the fundamental principles of socialist cultural life and implement them thoroughly through the state's administrative activities. For the socialist state to lead and administer all aspects of social life to suit the demands of socialism in accordance with the principles of socialism will play a great part in having the people learn socialist ideology by experience and make the socialist way of life their habit.

Furthermore, the socialist state must direct due attention to actively developing economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation with many countries in the world in accordance with the principle of equality and reciprocity, and at the same time, preventing the bourgeois ideology and corrupt bourgeois culture and the bourgeois way of life from seeping into our society in this process of exchange and cooperation. Should state organizations open the door to imperialist ideological and cultural infiltration in the process of economic and cultural exchanges with foreign countries, it could entail the grave consequence of endangering socialism. For this reason, it behooves all state organizations to take airtight administrative and legal measures to protect the socialist system and the people from the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

The thought clarified by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong- il that acting as an indoctrinator in ideology and culture is one of the basic functions of the socialist state is the unique thought that transcends the limitations of the existing theories which emphasize nothing but the cultural development function, and clearly illuminates for the first time the way for giving priority to ideological education while simultaneously carrying out cultural education. This represents the most scientific doctrine based on an ideological view point, and as such it constitutes an immoral contribution to the development of the theories of the state. This doctrine is also of great significance in making the socialist state protect the revolutionary sovereignty and the socialist system and enhance its invincible power and vitality to the fullest possible extent by putting main efforts, priority efforts, into ideological and cultural work.

We will advance the chuche cause of socialism victoriously and fulfil it to the end by studying and mastering the thought regarding the basic function of the socialist state as elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in his immortal classic and thoroughly implementing it in all aspects of state activities.

Daily on KPA Defending Party Cause With Arms

SK2510111795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 25 Oct 95

["Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces To Defend the Party's Cause With Arms " — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — It is the rockfirm faith and will of the People's Army officers and men to defend the cause of the party with arms at the cost of their lives under the leadership of their respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The paper says it is because of unfailing loyalty to respected Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il prevailing in the whole Army that the Korean People's Army [KPA] is strong, the Workers' Party of Korea powerful and Korean socialism defended firmly.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"It is the greatest honor and pride of our party to have had the People's Army who resolutely defend the party and the leader and carry out the party's instructions without fail in any adversity."

The mightiness of our Army reliably defending the party's cause lies in the fact that the firm revolutionary backbone unfailingly loyal to respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has been built up and the whole Army is permeated with the spirit to become the rifles and bombs to defend him, the paper notes, and continues:

The might also lies in the fact that the revolutionary military discipline by which all soldiers move as one upon the supreme commander's orders has been strictly established in the whole Army and the beautiful traits of Army-people unity has been fully displayed.

All services and arms of the Korean People's Army have been built up with competent military and political officers infinitely faithful to the party and the leader.

These officers always absolutely worship and follow the respected supreme commander and regard his idea and will as the only life line in thinking and action.

Today our People's Army officers and men are holding high the slogan "Let us become rifles and bombs defending the respected supreme commander!"

When a rigorous time of decisive battle comes, all the KPA soldiers will turn out to be a fortress and shields resolutely defending the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il and devote their youth and lives to struggle, shouting "Long live General Kim Chong-il!"

Nobody in the world can match the indestructible might of the KPA firmly armed with indomitable revolutionary spirit and the spirit of being rifles and bombs.

The idea, intention, order and instructions of the supreme commander are instantly and correctly brought home to companies, platoons and squads in time and all the Army from generals to privates move as one according to one and the same idea and order. This is the features of the KPA with revolutionary military discipline.

The iron revolutionary military discipline established in the KPA is not merely based on orders and system. It is voluntary military discipline based on intense loyalty and a high degree of ideological willingness to absolutely believe only General Kim Chong-il, the respected supreme commander, and uphold his leadership with devotion and the revolutionary military discipline based on the transparent faith that they will win victory without fail only when they move as indicated by him.

The KPA soldiers go through fire and water without hesitation for the sake of the life and assets of the people, regarding it as a noble duty to serve the people.

As the traditional beautiful trait of Army-people unity has been brought into full play, the KPA's fighting spirit is high a thousand fold and the unity of the party, the Army and the people has been consolidated more firmly.

It is entirely because it holds respected Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the supreme commander of the KPA that our people's Army has been turned into invincible revolutionary Armed Forces resolutely safeguarding the party's cause with arms.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is the greatest general who is gifted with clairvoyant military wisdom, matchless grit, outstanding commanding art. Since there are the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong- il, the powerful Workers' Party of Korea and the People's Army infinitely loyal to the party and the leader, the revolutionary cause of Korea is invincible.

South Korea

Seoul, U.S. Vow To Continue Military Exercise

SK2510012695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0105 GMT 25 Oct 95

[All punctuation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Despite the apprehension of a suspected North Korean armed infiltrator Tuesday by South Korean security forces, the joint military exercise Foal Eagle '95 will proceed as scheduled, Col. John Reitz, public affairs officer for the Combined Forces Command (CFC), announced Wednesday.

"The challenge is to deal with this real-world incident while continuing all reasonable Foal Eagle training events," remarked Reitz, adding, "We have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of our personnel, including removing some training forces from the incident area."

With a second North Korean agent still believed to be at large, two South Korean Army divisions that were to have participated in the joint exercise have been temporarily reassigned to join the multi-level massive manhunt for the missing infiltrator, the CFC quoted South Korean authorities as saying.

United States military personnel have not been involved in either the incident nor the subsequent search, according to CFC.

Foal Eagle '95, a three-week exercise that is the biggest in Korea, will continue throughout the republic as scheduled, with a few events delayed in other parts of the country due to unfavorable weather conditions, Col. Reitz said. The stoppages are completely unrelated to the incident, he added.

"I suspect the net result of this (incident) will be better training for our forces as all U.S. and most ROK particpants will continue their training events," said Reitz, noting that a variety of rear-area defensive manuevers are scheduled for several thousand American troops in the area where the infiltration occurred.

Surmising that other North Korean agents may be prowling around the border, the colonel stated that such circumstances "actually increase the training value of the exercise."

"Incidents such as this underscore the importance of trained leaders and forces to maintaining stability on the peninsula," he stressed, adding, "The attempted North Korean infiltration last week and this incident demonstrate the need for continued vigilance in this region."

Reportage on DPRK Infiltrators Issue Continues

U.S.: Infiltration 'Provocative'

SK2510011995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0108 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Oct. 24 (YONHAP) — The U.S. State Department on Tuesday [24 October] described as a "provocative action" the reported infiltration by two North Korean agents of a provincial region in South Korea.

A spokesman at the department said that "the infiltration of the agents is a provocative action, not in keeping with North Korea's stated desire to reduce tension."

He was commenting on press reports that an armed man, who was identified as a North Korean espionage agent later, was captured alive in South Korea after a shoot-out with South Korean policemen and soldiers near Puyo, South Chungchong Province, Tuesday.

However, he remarked that "the circumstances of this incident are not clear and we are seeking additional information."

Military, Police Continue Search

SK2510015095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0143 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puyo, South Chungchong Province, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — A combined team of military and police forces resumed its search early Wednesday morning for a North Korean armed espionage agent who fled from a shoot-out scene near here Tuesday, authorities here said.

Military and police forces have blocked access to and from Mt. Soksong, Puyo-gun, where the agent, identified as Pak Kwang-nam, is believed to be hiding, and have sent more than 120 soldiers and 12 sniffer dogs into the mountain.

About 16,000 reservists and more than 2,000 military and police troops are surrounding the mountain.

Park's colleague, Kim To-sik, 33, was caught in the first shoot-out scene due to a gunshot wound in his thigh.

Kim was taken to Seoul around midnight Tuesday after receiving first aid.

Paratroops Join Search for Escapee

SK2510081895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0748 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puyo, South Chungchong Province, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Airborne troops were mobilized on Wednesday afternoon to join in the search for a fugitive North Korean armed agent as the military-police manhunt team had combed the entire area of Soksong- myon, Puyo County, for him throughout the morning, but to no avail, an official of the joint team said Wednesday.

On Tuesday afternoon, two armed infiltrators appeared in the country and one of them, known as Kim To-sik, 33, was captured alive after exchanging shootout with military and police forces, but the other fled to a neighboring mountain area.

"In the morning, a search party some 5,000 people strong, 21 choppers and 16 military dogs were put into action to help hunt for the escaped espionage agent (named Pak Kwang-nam, 31) around Soksong mountain, but they did not discover any specific traces of the fugitive. We, therefore, decided to mobilize the Seventh Airborne Brigade's 350 troops, who were awaiting orders, to join in the manhunt," the official said.

It is sure that the armed spy is in an encircling net of the military and police search team, given that he has left behind no articles which have been found and no reports by local residents of having seen him have been made thus far, the official commented.

Accordingly, up-to-date electronic equipment is being transported from front-line areas to Puyo to detect the agent's wireless communications device and which kind of weapons he is holding, the official went on to say.

Meanwhile, the captured agent Kim confessed that the duo infiltrated South Korea last August by crossing the Imjin River, which flows between the two Koreas.

Agents Sent for 'Resident Spy'

SK2510082995 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0700 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been revealed that Kim To-sik, the North Korean spy who was captured alive near Chonggak Temple in Puyo, South Chungchong Province, infiltrated to the ROK to bring back to the North a resident spy operating in the ROK.

The National Police Agency announced today that Kim To-sik, the captured spy, and Pak Kwang-nam, who fled, infiltrated our country as a team through Kanghwa Island on 29 August. Since then, they had stayed at a motel near Moran Station in Songnam, Kyonggi Province, and prowled around Seoul and Kyonggi Province. Then, on 24 October, the police spotted them when they were approaching Chonggak Temple to contact the resident spy.

According to the police investigation, they belong to the Social and Cultural Department under the Workers Party of Korea, and were sent to the ROK to take back the resident spy who had been sent to the ROK over 10 years ago.

Forged Resident's Card Described

SK2510115495 Seoul YONHAP in English
1021 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puyo, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — An armed North Korean agent who fled away during a shootout with South Korean troops near Puyo, South Chungchong Province Tuesday afternoon, is known to carry a forged South Korean resident's card with him.

The fugitive agent whom his captured fellow agent identified as Pak Kwang-nam, age 31, is using a false identification card which gives Pak Kwang-son as the name of its bearer.

The captured agent, Kim To-sik, told interrogators that the resident registration number appearing in the false card is "610830- 1067327" and the address "1624-20 Pongchon-tong, Kwanak-ku, Seoul."

Kim said he and Pak Kwang-nam infiltrated to the South last August on a mission to carry back to the North a North Korean agent who he said has been operating in the South in the past ten years.

He was captured after being wounded on the leg in a shootout while his colleague managed to flee away and remained at large as of Wednesday afternoon despite an extensive police-military manhunt.

News Conference Provides Details

SK2510090495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Two North Korean armed agents who appeared in the County of Puyo, South Chungchong Province, Tuesday, were sent to South Korea for the purpose of taking a North Korean agent, who allegedly has been operating secretly in the country, back to North Korea.

The agents Kim To-sik, 33, and Pak Kwang-nam, 31, are from the Social and Cultural Department of the Workers' Party of North Korea and had been ordered to take a North Korean spy who already infiltrated South Korea back to the North, Yi Sung-wan, the deputy commissioner-general of the National Police Agency, told reporters at a news conference Wednesday.

The two agents left Haeju, Hwanghae Province, on Aug. 29, and entered Seoul after coming ashore on the coast of Yangdo-myon, Kanghwa Island, at about 12 PM that same day and changing into plain clothes, Yi explained.

They have stayed in Seoul and Kyonggi Province for 20 days while purchasing daily necessities, then on Sep. 21 they went to Puyo, where they scouted the Buddhist Temple Chonggak as a place from which they could clandestinely contact the North Korean agent who had allegedly been dispatched to the country 10 years ago, according to Yi.

Having received information that spies were sighted around the temple, the police were alerted to their presence and able to later capture one of the agents, according to Yi.

Soldiers, Police Suspend Manhunt

SK2510131295 Seoul YONHAP in English 1225 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puyo, South Chungchong Province, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — The joint military-police operations headquarters, searching for an elusive armed North Korean agent, suspended the manhunt at 5 pm Wednesday as night fell.

"As the rugged mountain area cannot be combed effectively due to darkness, we have suspended our operation. We will resume search early tomorrow morning," an officer of the headquarters said.

He said the fugitive agent seems trapped on the Soksong-san mountain near Soksong-myon, Puyo County, as he had virtually no chance to break through military cordons.

"We are blockading the area tightly with 40,000 combat policemen and soldiers. We are sure he is still in the area," he said.

Besides, 1,200 airborne troopers mobilized were posted in night ambush at key locations on the mountain.

The headquarters has been provided with a special night-observation device able to scan an area of 4 km radius, which the spokesman said was installed on the top of the mountain.

A 6 pm to 6 am curfew was slapped on the area and all vehicles passing the Puyo-Nonsan route are to be checked with the exception of military operations vehicles, he said.

PRC Reportedly Turns Down North Rice Request

SK2510061095 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 25 Oct 95 p 2

[By correspondent Han Chong-yol from Beijing]

[FBIS Translated Text] ROK Ambassador to China Hwang Pyong-tae revealed on 24 October: "China has recently rejected North Korea's request for rice." He added: "The Chinese Government reportedly told North Korea that it could not provide rice to North Korea, because it imports 1 million tonnes of rice a year, while North Korea imports 300,000 tonnes of rice a year."

Kim Tae-chung, president of the National Congress for New Politics, said that Ambassador Hwang related this to him. Kim Tae-chung is now visiting Beijing to attend a seminar hosted jointly by the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Hwang also said: "North Korea listens to no one." He went on to say: "It is better to leave North Korea alone without instigating it."

DPRK Informs Citizens of Foreign Relief Aid

SK2510095295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Several foreign governments and international organizations have notified North Korea of their decisions to provide the North with relief supplies for its flood victims, the (North) Korean central broadcasting station reported Wednesday.

China will supply Pyongyang with 30 million yuan worth of emergency relief goods, Syria 20,000 tons of each wheat and barley, and Switzerland will provide grains worth 3 million Swiss francs, according to the report monitored by NAEWOE PRESS, the official North Korea watcher here. [passage omitted]

It is the first time North Korean Radio has broadcast to North Koreans that flood relief aid from foreign governments and world organizations is being provided to them or promised, NAEWOE added.

The (North) Korean central broadcasting station called the relief supplies "cooperation goods."

Seoul, Laos Normalize Relations 25 Oct

SK2510015795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0139 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — South Korea and Laos signed a joint statement Wednesday on normalizing relations.

Vice Foreign Minister Yi Si-yong and his Laotian counterpart Phongsavath Boupha signed the statement which made Laos the 180th country with which South Korea has full diplomatic ties.

South Korea and Laos normalized relations in June 1974, but severed them in July the following year when the Southeast Asian country fell into the hands of communists.

The Foreign Ministry said that the signing of the statement on the normalizing of relations with Laos reflects South Korea's improved political and economic status in the international community.

The ministry noted that the communist Southeast Asian country, which has maintained diplomatic ties with North Korea since 1975, decided to normalize relations with South Korea to increase economic cooperation.

With the signing of the statement, South Korean firms will be able to take part in a variety of development projects in the lumber, mineral and other natural resource industries, a ministry spokesman explained.

The ministry expects Cambodia, the only country in Southeast Asia which does not have diplomatic relations with South Korea, will soon follow suit.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has about 4.7 million people on 236,800 square kilometers of land.

South Korea's exports to Laos reached 14.4 million U.S. dollars while imports totaled 10.3 million dollars in 1994.

South Korea's investments in Laos amounted to 2 million dollars as of June 1995.

Lao Minister Holds News Conference

SK2510102795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0508 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Laotian Vice Foreign Minister Phongsavath Boupha [name as received] said Wednesday that his country welcomes investments from Korean firms especially in the fields of infrastructure, hydroelectric power plants, agriculture and development of mineral and other natural resources.

Giving a joint press conference along with his Korean counterpart Yi Si-yong just after signing a statement on normalizing relations at the Foreign Ministry, Boupha said that "South Korea is the third largest country among foreign countries in terms of investment in Laos."

"Almost 400 million U.S. dollars have already been invested in Laos and we hope South Korea will also take part in the development of infrastructure in Laos," he said, adding that Laos is rich in natural, mineral and hydroelectric power resources.

On the question if Laos supports South or North Korea in the issue of the possible replacement of the current Korean Armistice Treaty, the Laotian vice foreign minister replied, "We hope that this issue will be solved through peaceful means by the Korean people."

"Our position is to respect proposals from both South and North Koreas on the issue," he said.

Boupha also said that his country has no intention of reviewing relations with North Korea even though Laos normalized relations with South Korea Wednesday.

"We should not forget old friends by making new friends," he said, adding that Laos has maintained traditionally friendly relations with North Korea.

He expected that Laos will become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1997 and could enhance cooperation with Korea, a dialogue partner of the association, in ASEAN.

Laos is currently an observer in ASEAN.

Boupha stressed that Laos, surrounded by five countries in Southeast Asia, could serve as a crossroads to economic cooperation in southeast Asia.

Due to financial difficulties in maintaining a permanent mission in Seoul, the Laotian ambassador to Japan will concurrently handle the duties of the ambassador to South Korea, he said.

The Laotian vice foreign minister also said that a South Korean ambassador in Southeast Asian countries will concurrently become South Korea's ambassador to Laos.

To expedite economic cooperation between the two countries, South Korea is negotiating with Laos on the signing of agreements for investment guarantees and science and technology cooperation, said Yi Si-yong who attended the joint press conference.

Former Aide to No Tae-u Comments on 'Scandal'

SK2510003895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0005 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Former President No Tae-u has not yet made any decision as to how he will cope with the secret political fund scandal involving him, Chong Hae-chang, who served as chief presidential secretary to the former head of state, said Tuesday.

Chong made the remarks to a group of reporters at his residence Tuesday evening with regard to speculations about No's future course of action which may include issuing a written apology to the people, donating his property to the state coffer and returning to his hometown to lead a reclusive life.

But Chong explained that No will address the scandal when the current prosecution's probe is over, saying, "It depends on what action the administration takes. Basically, a posture of mutual respect is needed, which, however, is lacking at present. As for now, we intend to put an end to the whole matter in one stroke when the prosecution's investigation is completed."

Chong appears to have made these remarks, keeping in mind behind- the-scenes negotiations between the ruling camp and former president No's group.

Premier on Handling of No's 'Secret Funds'

SK2510103995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku said Wednesday that the issues of putting former president No Tae-u's "secret funds" in the state treasury and their usage would be decided in "a legal and rational manner" after the prosecution's probe ends.

Answering lawmakers' questions about the secret political fund scandal involving the former head of state in the house interpellation session, Yi said the prosecution's investigation would clear up all suspicions surrounding the scandal — how No raised the money as well where and how much he spent.

Justice Minister An U-man said the prosecution has interrogated No's former chief bodyguard Yi Hyon-u and 11 others implicated in the scandal and is now tracking down the funds which flowed into the four bank accounts which No's aides opened under borrowed names at the Shinhan Bank.

"Although Yi (Hyon-u) said No's secret funds amounted to 48.5 billion won, the exact total will be made known, along with how former president No raised the money and where he used it as the prosecution's probe proceeds," he explained.

As for the demand of Rep. Kang Su-rim of opposition Democratic Party (DP) that No be arrested on charges he illegally raised political funds, Minister An said the prosecution would decide whether or not to question No about the secret funds after it determines how he raised the money and for what purpose.

The prosecution will investigate the scandal so that it will leave not even an iota of suspicion about No's secret fund, the justice minister said, adding "and if the investigation reveals that anyone committed a crime it will be dealt with strictly according to the law."

Rep. Kang also called for a probe into allegations that No got 100 million U.S. dollars in "rebate" in connection with a Yulgok military modernization program.

Rep. Chang Sok-hwa of the opposition National Congress for New Politics said President Kim Yong-sam should make public how he raised the 1 trillion won he allegedly used to financially support ruling party candidate Kim Yong-sam's electioneering in the 1992 presidential election and the role former lawmaker Yi Won-cho played in raising the campaign fund.

Rep. Won Hye-yong (DP) called on the government to investigate into all power-related scandals, including corruption and irregularities, involving not only No Tae-u's sixth republic but also his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan's fifth republic.

Political Impact of Former President's 'Fund'

SK2510035895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by "CUB": "Ruling, Opposition Wary of Impact of No's Money Probe"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] No doubt, the impact of former president No Tae-u's secret fund on the political situation is very big. However, no one can be sure how it will end up.

If this bomb of tremendous explosiveness goes off without any protective measures, both the ruling and opposition camps alike may be blown away, which is why an overhaul of the present political structure dominated by the three Kims is cautiously predicted.

The three Kims referred to are President Kim Yong-sam of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Kim Tae-chung of the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] and Kim Chong-pil of the United Liberal Democrats [ULD]. They have been the kingpins of the nation's politics for the past three decades.

At present it is openly suggested that No should be arrested for the purposes of the investigation. Spurred by an indignant public, even lawmakers in the ruling camp are not pulling their punches, criticizing No.

First of all, No is being hit for the lack of morality required of a man who once served as the head of state.

No admitted to the existence of 30 billion only two days after his strong denial. He even threatened to lodge a libel suit against Rep. Pak Kye-tong, who blew the whistle during his interpellation last Thursday.

DLP leaders said they were angry not so much at the secret fund as at his "double play."

No's predecessor Chon Tu-hwan spent two years in exile at a small temple in a rugged and windswept mountainous area in Kangwon-to to atone for all the irregularities that occurred while he was in office.

Now it is No's turn.

Now an investigation of the scandalous secret fund is going on. And there is no knowing who will be implicated. And there is no response from No yet to the ongoing investigation.

Opposition parties are increasing their political offensive against the Kim Yong-sam administration, taking advantage of the slush fund issue. Their pointed request is that sitting President Kim reveal how much he received from No to bankroll his campaign for the presidential election on Dec. 18 in 1992.

Their position would appear reasonable since Kim was nominated as the presidential candidate of the ruling DLP which No led. And therefore, the Kim Yong-sam administration cannot disassociate itself from No.

The opposition parties, particularly the NCNP and ULD, demand a full accounting of the election campaign expenditures of President Kim.

The answer from the ruling DLP is likewise strong. NCNP leader Kim Tae-chung should also reveal the details of his campaign funding for the 1992 presidential election, which he lost.

The DLP counterattack has a point too. If No supplied campaign funds to President Kim, he probably gave them to Kim of the NCNP too, because he bolted the DLP in August in 1992.

At that time, No was not on good terms with President Kim. And therefore, No had no reason to help the candidate of the DLP, which he had left, alone. As insurance for his safety after leaving office, No is likely to have surreptitiously helped NCNP leader Kim too as none of the two Kims emerged as a sure winner at that time.

Showing strong displeasure with No's secret fund, President Kim has now ordered a thorough investigation.

Now the ball is in No's court. The explosiveness of the case will hinge on how he reacts.

Should he reveal all the details of how the funds he raised while in office were used, its impact will be across the board, hitting both ruling and opposition parties alike to the floor.

No influential persons in the opposition camp will escape unscathed. Here arises a speculation that President Kim might be thinking of overhauling the current political structure, taking advantage of the public indignation in the wake of the scandal.

President Kim has on and off stressed the need for a generational shift in politics, otherwise the advancement of Korean politics cannot be expected.

A generational change will require the two Kims — Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil — to leave. President Kim has only a little more two years to go in office. [sentence as published]

Whatever happens, the scandal has dealt a smashing blow to the public's trust in politics, which was already at ground level.

Meantime, one of No's aides said his reaction would not be like pulling the rug since he is not an "ordinary man" but a former president, dismissing the likelihood of violent counterattack. [sentence as published]

No's Secret Funds Said Deposited in Many Banks

*SK2510091795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0724 GMT 25 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP) — The prosecution, investigating into the secret fund of former President No Tae-u, questioned Yi Tae-chin, former accountant section chief of the presidential security service, overnight until Wednesday morning and secured testimony that he also deposited money into other banks in addition to Shinhan Bank.

That means that there are more bank accounts containing secret funds other than those in Shinhan Bank. So the prosecution began searching more than 10 Seoul based Commercial Banks on Wednesday morning for accounts that may be related to the 48.5 billion won stashed at Shinhan Bank's Sosomun branch.

A prosecutor said, "Yi told us that it is true he deposited or withdrew money into and from accounts at banks other than Shinhan Bank in accordance with the instructions of Yi Hyon-u, former chief of the Chongwadae [presidential offices] security guard team. But he said he could not remember the amount of money deposited into any of the other banks or their names."

The prosecution is continuing to question Yi about the matter, he added.

On Tuesday night, the prosecution searched Yi's house and confiscated a memorandum and notebooks which may be related to the management of No's slush money. The prosecution is closely studying the materials.

Now after securing Yi's testimony, the prosecution plans to summon Yi Hyon-u again as well as to search his home.

On Wednesday morning, the prosecution began to search 11 financial organizations comprised of nine Seoul-based banks and two investment and trust companies to determine how the secret fund had been laundered.

All of the 36.4 billion-won secret fund that has been confirmed so far had been laundered, according to the prosecution.

The prosecution said that Yi U-kun, former chief of Shinhan Bank's Sosomun branch, testified that his senior at the bank had told him to launder the secret money. So the prosecution plans to summon chief of Shinhan Bank Na Ung-chan to ask him about why he instructed that the money be laundered and if No had asked him to do it.

The prosecution is inquiring into how the money in question got laundered and flowed from other banks to the confirmed borrowed-name accounts at Shinhan Bank.

Besides the four accounts found at Shinhan Bank, the prosecution is also searching the accounts of the Commercial Bank of Korea's Hyoja-tong branch which had been established under the false names of "Chonguhoe" and "KHS."

Therefore, it is highly likely that the total amount of No's secret fund may be larger than the 48.5 billion won which has been found so far, a prosecutor added.

Institute To Establish Pollution Measurement

*952C0176A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN
in Korean 10 Aug 95 p 11*

[Report by O Kwang-chin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Korea Institute of Standards and Science [KISS], which decided to create a state-level "system to control the measuring of environmental pollutants" in the next four years to improve the reliability of measurements, recently has prepared a basic plan to that end. The move has been prompted by the growing need for securing the reliability of pollution measurements, as well as the expanding use of pollution data reflecting the public's increasing concerns about environments.

In environmental pollution cases, if the reliability of measurements improves, it will not only contribute to the accurate monitoring of the state of pollution and the drawing of effective countermeasures but also ensure that environment-related programs based on those measurements fulfill their functions properly.

Pollution measurements serve as a base for legal sanctions against industries having discharged toxic wastes. They would also be used in issuing a warning of toxic substance contents in drinking water for consumer protection. Furthermore, when internationally releasing measurements of residual agricultural chemicals on farm imports, failure to produce reliable numbers could trigger trade frictions.

The KISS plan seeks to create a system to control elements causing measurement errors in the three realms of method, equipment, and personnel.

Regarding the measuring method, the plans calls for control through development and standardization of the most suitable method of analysis for each pollutant. The KISS, meanwhile, is planning to lead an effort to develop and disseminate analytical methods for new toxic substances and, at the same time, utilize internationally recognized measuring methods.

With respect to the measuring equipment, since environmental pollutants are mostly chemicals, the KISS plan calls for control through the use of certified reference materials (CRM). The CRM can be compared to a "yardstick" to determine if measuring equipment are functioning properly. For instance, when reference materials with their respective values are run through the measuring equipment for the intended examination, and if the equipment produce the same values, it certifies the accuracy of the equipment. So, the KISS will strive for CRM development. Domestically, as far as CRM's for testing the reliability of air pollutants measuring equipment are concerned, a fairly large number of them are in use already; however, with regard to those for testing measuring equipment for water and soil pollutants, the CRM availability is near zero, say specialists.

The KISS also plans to launch educational programs to train measuring personnel with expertise.

Behind the need for such systematic control in the measuring of environmental pollution is the fact that it is difficult for our country to have its pollution-related certifications accepted overseas should it fail to gain international recognition of the reliability of its measurements. Various environment-related certifications are emerging as a new trade barrier; since those certifications are based on pollution measurements, it is feared that a lack of accepted mutual certifications between countries could strike a heavy blow at domestic businesses exporting industrial and farm products.

Industrialized countries, therefore, are positively endeavoring to build their control systems on pollution measurements.

In the U.S. case, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Environmental Protection Agency are jointly developing CRM's and using them to ensure the accuracy of measurements on pollutants. The EU also has its basic common research (BCR) program in effect between laboratories of member nations for more than a decade now, in an effort to improve the precision of measuring methods on environmental pollutants and obtaining identical measuring results for the EU as a whole.

"Measurement control system on environmental pollutants can be established only through the positive participation of all the related ministries," said Ho Kwi-sok, chief of the organic analysis group at the KISS.

"It is necessary," he emphasized, "to create a network of cooperation and mutual verification of their measurements between organizations engaged in the measuring of similar pollutants." To that end, the ministries concerned should adopt an institutional device to ensure that organizations under them voluntarily submit to the planned measurement control, he added.

In our country, a number of different ministries are involved in the control of environmental pollutants. Air and water pollution cases are handled by the Ministry of Environment, while cases of contamination involving food, imported farm and livestock products, and soil are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Home Affairs is in control of water quality of waterworks, the Ministry of Trade and Industry in charge of commodity analyses of industrial products, while analyses of harmful elements in drinking water and foodstuffs are controlled by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and environmental conservation of work sites by the Ministry of Labor. But those ministries mostly have no institutionalized control of measurements on environmental pollutants. Nor is there any established interministry cooperation system, said the KISS official.

Burma

Article Views Rifts Within Shan State Leadership

BK2410102495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (INSIDE INDOCHINA Supplement) in English 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Subin Khuankaeo: "Rifts May Assist Khun Sa's Return"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Only two months after taking over Khun Sa's Shan State Restoration Council, divisions are emerging in the new central executive committee led by Zao Gun Jade, raising fears the charismatic drug kingpin may return to power.

The division stems from two crucial policy issues in the Shans' 50-year struggle for self-determination: opium and relations with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], according to reliable sources.

The overwhelming majority of the committee's members favour giving up drug trafficking, which has been the main source of income both for living and for the fight against Rangoon, but which has given a bad name to the Shan, killing any chance of international assistance.

About 80 per cent of the Shan support the majority view, but a few committee members ask two questions which cannot be answered effectively: What is the alternative to drug trafficking and what will the people eat?

These members, although a minority on the committee, are comparable to its bankers. Without them the new leadership will soon run out of cash, opening the way for Khun Sa or another drug warlord to take over, repeating the vicious cycle that has trapped the Shan for decades.

Zao Gun Jade and committee members who favour giving up drug trafficking thought about the issue before taking over from Khun Sa, according to sources. But it is no easy matter to build development in the Shan state which has known only subsistence living and drug trafficking.

Soon after taking over, the committee sent a letter to United Nations' secretary-general Butrus Butrus-Ghali informing him of the changes in the leadership of the Shan movement and expressing hope the new leaders would be internationally acceptable.

The UN was asked to help deal with drug production and trafficking. The committee pledged to put its entire administration and its army under UN command for the purpose. There are no reports of a reply from the world body.

Burmese Ambassador to Bangkok Tin Winn described the letter as "very funny" during an interview last month. The letter's main purpose was to answer a long cherished need of the Shan to be accepted internationally as an ethnic group with the right to self-determination, the sources said.

But the new leaders were realistic enough to know the UN would not, indeed could not intervene, even though they cherished some hope it would.

Drug trafficking in the Shan state, long infamous as the main source of narcotics to the United States, has spun out of control since Khun Sa stepped down. Small groups, some of 50-60 people, have begun to buy raw opium from villagers scattered around the state and then refine it in the jungle for export through China, Vietnam and Cambodia, the sources said.

The amount reaching refineries set up by Khun Sa very close to Mae Hong Son on the Thai border is dwindling.

The SLORC is aware of the change in trafficking patterns, but is turning a blind eye, knowing that it affects the Shan, among the last ethnic groups standing strong against the military, according to the sources who believe the SLORC may even get a share of the income.

The committee still has to decide on a policy toward the SLORC. Three options have been proposed: to fight the SLORC as enough weapons have been stockpiled, to open negotiations, or just continue as usual.

Since he stepped down two months ago, Khun Sa has remained in his headquarters at Hua Muang, patiently watching the new central executive committee struggle to establish itself.

While it can only be speculated that he nurtures an ambition to return to power, he is well aware that he, too, will have to answer the same crucial questions on the future of the Shan movement.

One of the major reasons why he had to step down is that the Shan grew tired of drug trafficking and, after nearly half a century, there seems to be no end in sight for their struggle for self determination.

The committee is suffering from a leadership crisis as Zao Gun Jade, known for his military wit, and other committee members cannot raise the Shan people's confidence about their ability to deal with these issues, according to the sources.

Suggestions have been made that Zao Chang, a Shan noble exiled in Canada who retains the respect of many people, be asked to return to lead the movement. But observers suspect he would decline the offer.

ABSDF Elects New Central Executive Committee

BK2410115795 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 21 Oct 95

[Press Release by the All Burma Students Democratic Front issued at the Thai-Burma border student camp on 21 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth conference of the All Burma Students Democratic Front [ABSDF] was successfully ended on October 20, 1995 at the student camp along the Thai-Burma border. The conference, started from October 5, 1995 was attended by the 69 representatives of the students camps. During the sessions of the conference, political and military reports of the central committee was submitted and activities of the ABSDF which had been implemented during the term of 1991-1995. Participants also discussed and analyzed the current political and military situation of Burma. The reports of working departments were also submitted and strategies, policies of the ABSDF were discussed and unanimously adopted by the participants.

In order to achieve the aims and objectives, the participants of the conference unanimously decided to balance between the political and military strategy while endeavoring to extend the international solidarity and seeking for international pressure upon the military regime in Burma. Military Code of Conduct, based on the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 was adopted and working plans for the future were decided.

On 19th and 20th of October, the new Central Committee was elected by secret ballots. Dr. Naing Aung was re-elected as the chairman of ABSDF. All the participants of the conference were determined to continue the struggle under the leadership of the new Central Committee until democracy is achieved in Burma.

The following members of the ABSDF were elected as the Central Committee members to lead the front for the next three years. Central Executive Committee

1. Naing Aung, Chairman
2. Kyaw Kyaw, Vice-Chairman
3. Sai Myint Thu, General Secretary
4. Myint Cho, Secretary-1
5. Htay Aung, Secretary-2
6. Khin Maung Win, Central Executive Committee member
7. Myo Win, Central Executive Committee member
8. Win Naing, Central Executive Committee member
9. Thaung Htun, Central Executive Committee member
10. Aung Htoo, Central Executive Committee member
11. Aung Naing, Central Executive Committee member
12. Kyaw Moe, Central Committee member
13. Khin Maung Swe, Central Committee member
14. Min Aung, Central Committee member
15. Ma Lay Lon, Central Committee member
16. Maung Di, Central Committee member
17. Maung Maung Gyi, Central Committee member
18. Maung Maung Tate, Central Committee member
19. Ye Lin Htun, Central Committee member
20. Wai Lin Zin, Central Committee member
21. Than Kyaw Htay, Central Committee member
22. Than Htut Swe, Central Committee member
23. Thein Saung, Central Committee member
24. Aung Khin, Central Committee member

ABSDF October 21, 1995

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Views Mandate of UN Peacekeepers

BK2510085495 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 25 Oct 95

[Report by Nizam Isa and Norlin Wan Musa — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — The United Nations is expected to endorse a proposal by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) to change the mandate of its peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina to that of peace enforcers.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said the move would also see the transition of command of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) from the United Nations to Nato, and it would be renamed "Implementation Force."

He said the proposal was discussed in Brussels by countries taking part in Unprofor and Nato.

Under the new mandate, the peace enforcers would be authorised to take steps, including military action, to deal with any violation of peace plans.

However, participating countries in the Implementation Force would be required to finance their respective battalions.

In Ipoh, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the change of mandate would provide the Implementation Force a clearer picture of what would be required of them.

"The new outfit will have their responsibilities well-defined and the force can take effective action," he told reporters after presenting UN blue berets to 971 officers and men of Malaysian Battalion (Malbat) IV.

Malbat IV will leave for Bosnia on Nov 2 to replace Malbat III, which served in the war-torn country for the last eight months.

Syed Hamid also said that the government was providing Malbat IV with better equipment to ensure that it could carry out its tasks effectively.

Commentary Views UN Anniversary, Failures

BK2510095795 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Nations turned 50 years old, and it is throwing a grand bash for itself in New York. One hundred and fifty leaders from nations from around the world are in attendance. Among the notable absentees, however, is Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. Dr. Mahathir, who has been making his feelings about the United Nations known to the world forum, found nothing to celebrate this year. Malaysia is therefore being represented only by Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi.

The cause of problems facing the United Nations currently lies within the very institution itself, and the problem is so acute that all nations are using the assembly to call for reform. The call by superpowers, however, lacks the urgency apparent in the call made by lesser poewrs. The superpowers, led by the United States, are calling for revamp based on what they claim to be the end of the Cold War era. The fall of Berlin Wall, according to the United States, heralds the era of the post-Cold War and a new world order. But the behavior of the two supposedly former enemies over the Balkan conflict demonstrated that the Cold War is still alive and kicking. This is being demonstrated right now at the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations. Among the bilateral meetings taking place on the fringes of the celebrations, this one between the United States president, Bill Clinton, and Russia's Boris Yeltsin and the topic that is growing to be a thorny issue is who is going to lead the peacekeeping force being planned for the region.

Throughout the high conflict between the Serbs and the Bosnians, all the signs have been pointing towards the existence of the Cold War. The Americans were seemingly siding with the Bosnians, while the Russians were backing the Serbs all along.

The veto power held by superpowers was also under fire as member nations begin to understand the uselessness of majority voice when any veto holder can exercise that right if it does not like a motion.

Fifty years have passed and most countries have achieved maturity and are not too easily misled as in the past. These countries have come to realize that the United Nations is not the organization that it has started out to be. Its honorable charter has been twisted and contorted to fit the wishes of the few and never have this fact been more true than when veto-holding nations pursue their nuclear wishes and having other veto holders downplay or dismiss this act of highhandedness.

During this golden anniversary year, member countries are rightly not feeling proud of the organization. Disappointments issued regularly by the nearly bankrupt United Nations have changed the celebrations into more of a self-reflection to find ways of improving itself.

Among other pressing problems highlighted, apart from the unequal balance of power, are the United Nations' abject failure in the Balkan, wastage of severely short funds, redundancy among United Nations agencies, and failure to honor funding commitments by rich members. Member countries are now seeking to turn the United Nations into a more caring organization that caters to the needs of humanity as a whole rather than serving the needs and whims of the few. The call has been made and the United Nations will do well to heed this call. Perhaps the powers-that-be in the United Nations will be wise enough to heed the adage — you could fool some people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

Singapore

Goh Discusses APEC With Japan's Murayama

BK2410130695 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Warren Fernandez in New York]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong met his Japanese counterpart Tomiichi Murayama on Saturday in a meeting at which the two leaders affirmed the importance of the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum summit next month, and agreed on the need to resolve outstanding issues on the Apec agenda.

The Osaka summit would consolidate Apec's economic achievements and create further impetus for growth in the region.

It would also further Apec's Action Agenda, a road map for trade liberalisation among the 18-member grouping, which will be discussed at the summit.

Noting that officials preparing for the meeting had reached agreement on most of the issues, the two prime ministers agreed that the remaining issues should be "resolved in a realistic fashion within the framework of the principle of comprehensiveness", Mr Goh's press secretary told reporters here later.

Top-most among the unresolved issues is the question of the "comprehensiveness" of Apec's trade liberalisation, namely whether all economic sectors should be opened up.

At a summit in Bogor, Indonesia, last November, Apec members agreed to the goal of free and open trade in the region by 2010 for industrialised countries, and 2020 for developing ones.

But Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan are seeking to exclude their agriculture sectors, arguing that flexibility will be needed for them to open up these politically sensitive areas.

Officials meeting in Tokyo last week to draft the Action Agenda failed to reach agreement on the final form it would take or to break the deadlock on the dispute over whether, and when, agriculture sectors should be opened up.

The two prime ministers' remarks that such issues should be resolved "in the framework of comprehensiveness" might be read by some as a sign that agreement would still be reached before the Osaka summit.

The two leaders are in New York for the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations, which began yesterday. Mr Goh's talks with Mr Murayama, held at the grand Waldorf Astoria hotel, was one of a host of bilateral meetings lined up in between the events held for the UN celebrations.

During the meeting, Mr Goh also briefed the Japanese leader on the preparations for the Asia-Europe summit to be held in Bangkok next March. [passage omitted on Goh Chok Tong's scheduled activities]

Minister Views UN Contribution to World Order

BK2410135395 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister says the assessment of the United Nations' contribution to world order should not be limited to its role in peace and security. Professor S. Jayakumar said its contribution to socioeconomic development and providing humanitarian relief should also be taken into account.

He made this point in a speech delivered on behalf of President Ong Teng Cheong at the UN 50th anniversary dinner today. Prof. Jayakumar said the United Nations peacekeeping record should be viewed in totality and more objectively. He said the UN made a difference between the world governed by the law of the jungle and one governed by the rule of law. This is critical especially for small states like Singapore, which take the UN seriously.

Indonesia

Government 'Regrets' Soares' UN Speech

BK2410123295 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1011 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Nations, New York, 24 Oct (ANTARA) — Foreign Minister Ali Alatas regrets Portuguese President Mario Soares' speech before the UN General Assembly's special session held to welcome the 50th anniversary of the United Nations because he touched on the East Timor issue.

"With all due respect to the Portuguese president, I must express my regret because he included the East Timor issue in his brief speech. Moreover, he used improper words in his remarks," he said in New York on Monday evening.

Alatas made the remarks when he was asked to comment on the Portuguese president's speech before the United Nations General Assembly on 22 October to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The Portuguese president said the decolonization process in East Timor had been brutally ended by Indonesia. [passage omitted]

Alatas expressed his astonishment at the Portuguese president's insistence on touching on the East Timor issue in his brief speech.

According to Alatas, the speech should have been focused on reviewing the United Nations' past action and offering inputs for future improvement.

Moreover, the Portuguse president presented wrong facts and used unethical words in his attempt to corner Indonesia over the East Timor issue.

Baseless

According to the foreign minister, the Portuguese president's allegation that the decolonization process in East Timor had been brutally ended by Indonesia was totally baseless because Portugal itself had irresponsibly abandoned East Timor in a chaotic situation in August 1975.

In November of that year, Indonesia asked Portugal during a Geneva meeting to settle the decolonization process but Portugal was unwilling to do so.

Alatas considered inappropriate the Portuguese president's remarks on the East Timor issue during the United Nations General Assembly's special session held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

He reiterated that tripartite talks between the foreign ministers of the Republic of Indonesia and Portugal under the UN secretary general's auspices are an appropriate forum to achieve a fair and acceptable solution to the East Timor issue. [passage omitted]

Rights Commissioner on Opening of E.Timor Office

BK2510062495 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1548 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dili, 24 Oct (ANTARA) — Clementino dos Reis Amaral, a member of the National Commission on Human Rights, has said that the establishment of the commission's branch in East Timor scheduled for this year is not based on or due to pressure from foreign countries.

Responding to journalists' questions at Comoro Airport in Dili on Tuesday, Amaral said: "Oh ...There is no pressure at all. The decision to set up the commission's branch in East Timor has been viewed and considered based on the conditions in the country."

Amaral, accompanied by Asmara Nababan, S.H. [Master of Law], member of the National Commission on Human Rights, was on a three- day visit to the province that began 22 October.

Amaral said there was a strategic aspect to the opening of the commission's branch in East Timor because it can help in resolving problems related to implementation and violations of human rights.

He said the strategy behind the establishment of the branch office was: "The news on human rights violations reported by outsiders did not reflect the reality of the incident. The people trust the commission's ability to handle cases of human rights violations in the province if there are any."

Asked why no commission branch office had been established in other provinces of Indonesia when there is going to be one in East Timor, he said that this matter should be viewed wisely.

"Comparatively speaking, there are more cases of human rights violations on Java Island because the world is focusing its attention on East Timor. Therefore, the human rights issue is on the surface in the province," he added. [passage omitted]

Party Backs Leader To Run in Next Election

BK2510100195 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 11 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Semarang (JP) — Seven branches of the minority Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) in Central Java have asked party chairperson Megawati Sukarnoputri to run in the next presidential election in 1998.

The branches in a joint statement said the party should nominate Megawati to run for president at the gathering of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) in 1998.

Megawati has fulfilled the requirements to run for the post said the statement signed by representatives from PDI branches in the regencies of Brebes, Batang Pemalang, Slawi, Tegal and Pekalongan as well as from the city of Pekalongan.

Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, was swept to PDI leadership in the party's congress in 1993, despite earlier attempts by the government to block her candidacy.

The call for her to run for the presidency came as a number of organizations began calling on President Suharto to stay at the helm when his current sixth term in office ends in two years time.

GM Gakari, a youth organization under the ruling political organization Golkar, set the ball rolling this month when it publicly announced that the country still needs the incumbent 74-year old President to see it through the next century.

A former close aide of the President Sudomo, has also stated that Suharto is "unbeatable" and that no other candidate could match the vision and capability of the incumbent.

The PDI branch leaders in their statement said that Megawati is a democratic fighter and has grassroots groups' support.

"There are a host of other reasons why we're nominating Megawati. She is simple, honest, non-materialistic and an uncomplicated figure," according to their statement.

Nominations for the presidency does not officially begin until the MPR opens its gathering in March 1998.

Suharto has been elected sixth times by the MPR, each time running unopposed, with PDI consistently failing to field an alternative candidate.

Philippines

Ramos Clarifies Remark on China's 'Threat'

BK2510092595 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Oct 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Lynda T. Jumila with Stella Gonzales]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Boston (via PLDT) — President Ramos stressed Friday that his plea for support from the United States over Chinese expansionism did not mean an invitation for the return of American military facilities to the Philippines.

The president also defended his move to send out "distress signals" worldwide over Chinese incursions into the Spratlys, but said this was not meant to offend Beijing.

"We don't want to offend our big neighbor ...(but) we in the Philippines feel this is the way to deal with China," he said.

Manila's action, he said, are aimed at "keeping China constructively engaged as a regional partner," instead of "isolating it as an opponent."

Beijing has protested as "dangerous" Mr. Ramos' remarks that China's development as an economic and military power posed a threat to regional growth and stability.

Lawmakers were also skeptical about the president's statements, saying these are meant to lay the groundwork for the return of or access by U.S. military forces to the Philippines.

In Malacanang, however, Press Undersecretary Honesto Isleta said there was no basis for such suspicions .

"There is no truth to that rumor," Isleta said. "I don't think the president has any intention to ask the Americans to come over here."

He said the president had even discussed in his speech before the East-West Center in Honolulu the refusal of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to commit themselves "prematurely" to proposals for "prepositioning" US weapons in their territories.

Mr. Ramos had attributed this cautious action of the Asean to lessons from the past ("when the weak were wise to stay away from the quarrels of the strong") and to the possibility that the dismantling of American naval and air bases "removes a potential provocation" to China and in fact invites the latter "to live-and- let-live with Southeast Asia."

In a series of interviews and speeches at the end of his two-day visit here, Mr. Ramos said the Philippines' handling of the Spratlys situation has won global support as well as eased tension in the South China Sea.

"Our Asia-Pacific neighbors think we handled (the dispute well) but we don't want to crow about this," he said.

"Our signalling of our distress got the support of all of Asean and other countries whose interests have been adversely affected," he added.

The president also said he was happy with the U.S. response to the Philippines' call for support on the South China Sea dispute.

Although Manila did not invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States, Mr. Ramos said Washington's response was "very positive."

Military exercises

He stressed that there was no agreement between the two countries to make any move against Beijing.

"We didn't sound any warnings, or signal any offensive operations in that area. We just agreed to continue with our annual land-sea- air exercises between two of us," he said.

The president said he was also informed by Adm. Richard Macke, chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, that the United States was conducting its naval exercises with other countries in the region.

He would not say if the U.S. military exercises were in preparation for a possible worsening of the situation in the Spratlys, which is being claimed by six countries, including the Philippines and China.

But Mr. Ramos said such activities were "all for the good of everyone."

"We are not trying to poise a counter force in the military sense towards China," he stressed. "This is all part of constructive engagement."

The Philippines will continue to exercise vigilance on the Spratlys issue "because of the sheer size of China, her expanding economy and her influence in the world."

Balance of Power

In his Honolulu speech, the president said the United States could not afford to leave Asia in the hands of a single dominant power "anymore than it could tolerate Western Europe's being in the same situation."

In the "foreseeable future," the United States "must continue to be the fulcrum of East Asia's balance of power," he said as he challenged the only remaining superpower to grab the historic opportunity to bring political morality to international relationships.

Mr. Ramos also spoke of China being East Asia's most serious concern, saying that the world's projected largest economy "will unavoidably press, politically and militarily," on East Asia even if Beijing does not make any effort to build its capability to project power beyond its borders.

He said China should be integrated into the Asia-Pacific community, through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Asean Regional Forum, for lasting regional stability and that the United States should help carry this out successfully.

Joint Venture

On Friday morning, Mr. Ramos witnessed the signing of a $40- million joint venture agreement between the Bank of Boston and its Filipino partners.

The agreement calls for the establishment of a merchant banking investment house in Manila.

To be named Boston Capital and Investment Corp., the investment house will provide a wide array of corporate investment banking products and services in both Philippine peso and foreign currencies.

The president also met with chief executive officers of American firms, whom he enticed to invest some more in the Philippines.

In the afternoon, Mr. Ramos spoke before a jampacked and appreciative crowd at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In a well-applauded speech, he told some 300 students, officials and guests of Harvard that the Philippines has turned its back on authoritarianism as a path to development.

Mistaken Policies

He also said the country has left behind "mistaken (economic) policies of the past," such as narrow nationalism, protectionism, monopolies and cartels, and state intervention in private business.

Although there was a lot of hard work to be done, Mr. Ramos expressed confidence the country was "on its way to full development" and that "the future of democratic rule is secure in the Philippines."

The president left Boston 6 a.m. Saturday (6 last night in Manila) for New York, with scheduled stops in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Newark, New Jersey.

He was expected in New York evening of Saturday, in time for the celebration of the United Nation's 50th anniversary.

Ramos Accused of Fostering 'Neo-Bipolar World'

BK2410112895 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The China Threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Even before reaching New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, and to Colombia to take part in the Non-Aligned Nations [NAM] summit, President Ramos gave away in tiny Hawaii the ostensible purpose of his diplomacy: urge the United States to remain active in Asia and forestall the rise of China and its possible emergence as a regional bully.

The message would grate on nationalists, but the president was talking before a docile audience at the East-West Center in Hawaii. Presumably no one from the audience would dare challenge the president's assumptions, especially because his message was calculated to please the Americans and pro-American Filipinos.

The rub is that the president goes to the UN General Assembly and NAM meetings overladen with an ideological baggage; he had spoken in Honolulu with the accent and resonance of the former bipolar world that is anachronistic to the emerging multipolar world order. We hope he gets a fair hearing from either forum.

It is expected of course that the president will enlist NAM support for Philippine diplomatic and political offensives to check China's activities in the South China Sea, particularly its rather heavy-handed encroachments on that portion of the Spratly islands claimed by the Philippines.

But a little rewording of the Hawaii speech may just do the trick and recast the president's NAM address into something more to the spirit of the non-aligned movement. In this case, instead of calling for continued American military presence in Asia to curb China's apparent expansionism, the president may portray China's activities as harmful to small nations and a threat to the stability of the world as to return it to the Cold War days.

If the president appears treading on dangerous grounds, let it be so. From our viewpoint, he is still gingerly exploring options on how to deal with the Chinese, and the manner, if we must complain, seems tentative and the ways being studied and employed, kid-glove. But this is the post-Cold War world; nobody said it was going to be easy after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Some sectors would view the president's concern about China a misplaced paranoia that is a hang-over from the Cold War days, but a cursory survey of foreign policy and diplomatic analyses across the region would reflect the same concern among most Asian capitals.

Mr. Ramos probably feels that what is needed now is to stop the United States from sliding back toward isolationism and keep it engaged in the region, not so much to act as a bulwark against China in a neo-bipolar world (Washington and Beijing), but to spur the emergence of a multipolar world.

In the end, a multipolar world is the real shield against any threat from any emerging world power. The world is in fact going in that direction. While it is true that the Chinese economy is growing by leaps and bounds and will have become the single largest economy in 25 years, it is also true that other economies are expanding, notably those of Southeast Asia, India, and Latin America. Moreover, European countries are consolidating their union.

In the end, the president may have to maintain a balance between voicing out a fear shared by many Asian leaders and espousing the principles of non-alignment as enunciated by a movement of which the Philippines is a member.

Thailand

Deputy Prime Ministers on U.S. Drug Statement

BK2410160895 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, deputy prime minister and currently acting prime minister, spoke to the press today about the U.S. move to apply economic sanctions against Thailand if Thailand fails to amend its money laundering law. He said other countries realize that Thailand is not a drug exporting or drug-producing country, but only a transit country for narcotics trafficking. He said that Thailand and the United States have been cooperating to stop the trafficking of narcotics. He also added that the United States did not specify that Thailand was a drug trafficking country. He did say he would like to see the entire U.S. statement in order to understand its real meaning and to know whether the report was actually a misinterpretation. If the United States did say what it has been reported as saying, the acting prime minister said there should be a discussion in order to prevent negative effects.

The acting prime minister believed the United States would not apply economic sanctions against Thailand because the matter was not that serious. But, he said, Thailand must explain to the United States Government its position to deepen mutual understanding. Sombun said he would have to wait for a consultation with the prime minister first.

Concerning the money laundering bill, the acting prime minister said the parties concerned had been discussing the bill and realize the positive and negative aspects of the bill. He said the law should be enforced if there are more advantages from the bill; however, enactment of the law must be carefully studied.

When asked about allegations against Thai politicians for their involvement in drug trafficking, Sombun said an inquiry committee had been established by the government to investigate the matter, and no comment would be made on this matter until the panel finishes its investigation.

Deputy Prime Minister Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat also granted an interview to reporters on this subject today after delivering an address and opening a photo exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. He said the U.S. President did not specify Thailand in his speech, but that Thailand had been singled out in an official report. As the two countries have entertained smooth relations and have been cooperating in fighting narcotics trafficking, Thaksin feels the United States should have been able to talk with Thailand instead of resorting to, what he feels, was an improper move. He thinks that steps should be taken by the Foreign Ministry regarding this matter. The ministry is expected to consult with the prime minister on the course to be taken.

The deputy prime minister said it is common for a big country to treat small countries in such a manner. He said it is time for Thailand to act as a nation equal to others. He believes Thailand should now stand on its own feet and not pay attention to such allegations. He stressed that the Thai Government has been cooperating with other countries in fighting narcotics trafficking, especially with the United States. Thailand has a mutual treaty with the United States on criminal extradition, he said.

Ministers Assail U.S. Over Sanction Threat

BK2510045995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Oct 95 pp A1, A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior government ministers yesterday lashed out at Washington for putting Thailand on a list of countries that risk American sanctions for alleged failure to curb drug trafficking and money-laundering.

They described Washington's move as inappropriate and said US authorities should "look to themselves" rather than make accusations against other countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said it was not appropriate for the US to threaten Thailand with sanctions.

"As a friendly country, they should hold talks with us instead of announcing (the list) in such a way (at a United Nations meeting), which is inappropriate action," he said.

On Sunday, US President Bill Clinton urged world leaders to join a crackdown on international drug smugglers, announcing that the United States will freeze the assets of the Colombian Cali drug cartel and punish countries that tolerate money laundering.

In his speech to open the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UN, the president did not mention the names of any other countries. However, officials said the warning was aimed at dozens of nations, such as Antigua, the Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Thailand, Austria, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

Clinton also put nations suspected of money laundering on notice that the United States may impose sanctions on them if they persist in helping criminals.

Thailand is in the process of drafting a bill which would allow state monitoring of suspicious bank transactions.

Thaksin said Thailand was not a drug-producing base, and that the US should look at itself because the making of heroin in the region must use chemicals imported from the US.'

Accusing Washington of threatening smaller countries, he said Thailand had fully cooperated with the US in curbing drug trafficking. He said the issue would be discussed at a Cabinet meeting after Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha returned from the US.

"The US wants to become a hero in the world, but we do not have to care about them," Thaksin said.

Banhan said Thailand's policy was to suppress narcotics. However, he said the policy would be successful only if both sellers and buyers were suppressed.

"Thailand has never been negligent on the issue," Banhan, who is in New York to attend the UN general assembly, said.

Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthorawet claimed that the US was a major narcotics buyer, so it should be named in the list.

"If there are no buyers, how can drugs be sold? It is very bad that the US sees all other people as bad, but they themselves as good.

"The US president is not brave enough. If he is brave enough, he should have mentioned Thailand in his speech," Samak said.

Science Minister Yingphan Manasikan said the Cabinet assigned its secretary general Witsanu Khruangam to coordinate with the Foreign Ministry to find out the facts about the threat.

Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen claimed that the Foreign Ministry said Thailand was not on the list.

Justice Minister Chaloem Yubamrung accused the US of exploiting its friendly countries. He claimed that Clinton talked about drugs because he wanted to gain popularity to be re-elected.

PM's Office Minister Piyanat Watcharaphon said the US should not make groundless accusations against any country. He said the US was not-the "most powerful country in the universe".

"Even the sun was put in the mouth of the god Rahu," he said of yesterday's total eclipse, which many Thais believe occurred because Rahu held the sun in his mouth.

Sophon Phetsawang (Chat Phatthana-Buri Ram) said Prime Minister Banhan must clarify the issue and reveal the names of politicians who were involved in the drug trade. If he failed to reveal all the facts, it could mean that he was being negligent, he said.

He said he would consult his fellow Chat Phatthana members to file an urgent parliamentary motion calling on the government to give an explanation. He also called on the premier to take strong action over the allegations.

Phichet Phanwichatkun (Democrat-Krabi) said the government should quickly push for a money-laundering law. He added that the accusations would affect the country's economy.

Ministry Confirms Country Not on U.S. Drug List

BK2510043695 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Public Relations correspondent Chintana Chaengchumphot, who is in the prime minister's entourage as an observer, filed an overseas report to the department's news center a moment ago.

According to the report, Foreign Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson has confirmed, following completion of an investigation by the Thai Foreign Ministry, that Thailand is definitely not on the list of countries accused of involvement in narcotics trafficking.

The foreign minister said the investigation revealed that the previous reports on this matter originated with a U.S. White House official. Sarasin Wiraphon, deputy permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, was assigned to meet with U.S. officials on this matter and check the facts. U.S. authorities confirmed that Thailand is not on the list of accused countries.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Bill Clinton did not mention this matter in his UN speech either. The U.S. State Department has ordered the U.S. Embassy in Thailand to issue an announcement to clarify this matter.

M.R. Kasemsamoson went on to say that the issue involved is political institutions, which no one should criticize. Thailand supports the establishment of a convention on international crimes and public safety, which includes terrorism and narcotics.

Daily Justifies U.S. Stand on Narcotics

BK2410115895 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Thailand Blacklisted at UN Forum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapaacha's hope for a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss drug allegations against Thai politicians has crumbled. Banhan hoped to meet with the U.S. President, while attending the UN forum, and to discuss U.S. allegations of involvement in drug trafficking by Thai politicians. Not only did Prime Minister Banhan miss the chance to meet with the U.S. President, an opportunity former Prime Minister Chuan Likphai once had, but Thailand's image plunged lower when President Clinton made a speech at the UN forum yesterday.

The U.S. President declared before world leaders that he will use emergency powers under the international economic law to punish countries tolerating money laundering. His first target is Colombia's Cali drug cartel. He has ordered his agencies to step up measures to combat terrorism, crime, and drug trafficking in six U.S. blacklisted countries including Thailand. This is most shameful for Thailand.

In his capacity as Thailand's leader, we think Banhan Sinlapa- acha must try his best to project to the world forum Thailand's role and responsibility in narcotics suppression although this is a tough job to carry out in reality. We do not want to see him engage in a role which aims to protect the Chat Thai Party's senior politicians accused by the United States, or in any role connected with Colonel Thanat Khoman, chairman of the public hearings committee, who is in the prime minister's delegation, in exposing the U.S. ill will against Thailand through its accusations against Thai politicians over drug involvement.

The above-mentioned should not be the Thai leader's main purpose for the U.S. trip. In fact, the cases of Narong Wongwan and Watthana Atsawahem were personal affairs between the two persons and the U.S. Government which can legitimately deny entry visas to any nationals suspected of having contacts with persons or organizations involved in narcotics trafficking. The United States holds that narcotics trafficking needs backing by financiers, and therefore is targeting businesses that make quick profits such as gambling which is a form of money laundering. Anyone with huge investments in the Golden Triangle, one of the region's major narcotics sources, therefore deserved special attention.

Both Narong Wongwan and Watthana Atsawahem are entitled to protect their honor and their names. But Prime Minister Banhan and Col Thanat Khoman do not have the right to turn the problem of the two persons into a national issue to be thrashed out at an international forum. We consider it most damaging to Thailand's reputation and its honor when our country is listed as one of six countries facing economic sanctions by the United States for allowing drug money laundering. Prime Minister Banhan must prove that his government is sincere about controlling and suppressing drug trafficking, and that it is not just trying to protect the Chat Thai Party members accused of involvement in narcotics trafficking.

U.S. Remarks on Money Laundering 'Encouraging'

BK2510041895 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Politics Can't Be Allowed To Slow Dirty Money Bill"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The initial responses from senior government officials to US President Bill Clinton's intentions to take economic sanctions against countries which "tolerate money laundering" is encouraging. It is encouraging in the sense that it portrays Thailand's readiness to join the international community in combatting international drug trafficking in a more complete manner. Perhaps more encouraging is that, finally, President Clinton's latest initiative coupled with a positive Thai response will result in the consideration and passage of this country's long-awaited money laundering law.

News of US intentions regarding drug trafficking and money laundering comes at a time when emotions are running high over the role of the public hearing committee headed by former foreign minister Thanat Khoman. It would not be surprising if, somehow, the latest US initiative is linked to the issue being tackled by the committee. The two should not be linked. It is therefore encouraging to see our officials responding in the manner they have to date because any attempt to link these two events would only jeopardise and delay a law which this country needs to tackle drug trafficking in a more effective manner.

There's no doubt that for decades Thailand has been a conduit for narcotics trafficking even though we have made considerable progress in reducing the amount of drugs produced in the country. Despite the huge progress made, drug traffickers have been able to take advantage of the open financial systems in many countries, including Thailand, to launder their dirty money.

Apart from increased suppression and prevention, a more effective method of combatting this trade is to attack the pocket books of the traffickers. The strategy is simple enough: Seize the ill-gained earnings of known drug gang leaders. But the task is not that simple. Traffickers' criminal activities continue to thrive because they have developed the complex and shadowy process of money laundering. Crumpled bills handed over by hundreds of desperate heroin addicts in Bangkok turn up in a Swiss bank account, and is used to purchase an automobile in America. The suitcase of cash paid to a marijuana smuggler on a Canadian island reappears a few months later from a Singapore bank, and is used to pay contractors working on a hotel in Rangoon. It should not come as a surprise that money gathered from addicts in Thailand is laundered into legitimate or clean businesses in the country. We should not even be surprised if some of that money ended up financing the campaigns of individual politicians in this country.

Despite the latest US initiative, the fact remains that Thailand needs legislation concerning money laundering. And although Thailand has been listed among countries which could face possible US action, it does not mean it has been complacent in this regard.

The country's draft law concerning money laundering has been under consideration for quite some time. It was considered by the Chuan government with the chief of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Gen [General] Chawalit Yotmani, as the prime mover behind the Bill. The Bill gained the support of the Chuan Cabinet and was expected to be considered after the May 1994 censure debate. However, the dissolution thwarted its consideration in Parliament.

Prior to the dissolution of last May the proposed new law won wide support from the Government and Opposition, as well as Thai businessmen. The most encouraging aspect is the support of the business community. Traffickers depend on legitimate financial centres and investment to make their ill-gotten gains appear clean. If banks refuse to accept deposits from shady men carrying suitcases filled with cash; if governments refuse investments from suspicious characters, the traffickers are stuck with worthless, dirty money.

The Chuan government acted wisely in moving cautiously on the anti-laundering bill. By gaining support from the private sector, it enhanced the Bill's chances of success. This Bill has been re- submitted to the Banhan Government but has to date not yet proceeded any further. The draft law should be considered by this government and it would be Thailand's loss if politics of any sort delays its passage.

Officials Comment on Money Laundering Bill

BK2510035095 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The anti-money laundering bill drafted by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board [ONCB] has not yet been forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration, Cabinet secretary-general Witsanu Khrua-ngam said yesterday.

He said the draft, prepared by the ONCB during the Chuan Likphai administration, has been sent to various agencies concerned to seek their opinions.

The Interior Ministry and National Security Council have replied with their recommendations, but the Finance Ministry has not, he said.

The Cabinet Secretariat did not give the ministry a timeframe for the reply, Mr Witsanu said.

He said it is not known whether the bill would cover people who appear to be unusually rich, saying it depends on what the Cabinet decides.

Meanwhile, Thirachai Phuwanatnaranuban, director of the Department of Financial Institution Supervision and Examination at the Bank of Thailand, said although Thailand does not have an anti- money laundering law, the Central Bank has the power to order the country's commercial banks to disclose the sources of money in suspect accounts.

He said the Bank of Thailand has been closely cooperating in exchanging information and opinions with the central banks of other countries to prevent international money laundering.

Mr Thirachai admitted the Bank and Financial Institution Act was not directly intended to suppress the laundering of dirty money. It would be better to have a specific law against money laundering.

Another way out is to amend the Bank and Financial Institution Act to give the Bank of Thailand additional power to examine suspect accounts and investigate sources of cheques suspected of having been issued by narcotics traders.

Thammawit Thoetudomtham, lecturer at the Thammasat University Faculty of Economics, commented that punishments prescribed in Thailand's money laundering law may not be enough.

In addition, it is doubtful whether the authorities have been taking serious action against such wrongdoers. The actions taken do not have much effect on wrongdoers if they are rich and influential.

As Thailand was one of the countries cited by US President Bill Clinton as being involved in money laundering, the US leader's speech could have adverse effects on Thailand, said Mr Thammawit.

If the US imposes sanctions on Thailand, that would badly affect the country's economy.

Support Grows for Crackdown on Drug Profits

BK2510033795 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Support for measures to combat the laundering of drugs money was growing yesterday in the wake of the threat of United States economic sanctions.

Democrat executive Churin Laksanawisit said stringent laws directed at the drugs trade and corruption would be the best option.

It would be in Thailand's interests, he said, to push such legislation, which would entail a monitoring system to prevent the conversion of drug profits into acceptable currency.

On Monday, US officials produced a list of countries including Thailand, which could face economic sanctions for tolerating the laundering of drug money. The list was released after President Bill Clinton declared war on terrorism, crime and drug trafficking in an address to the United Nations.

Mr Clinton told his audience, which included Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, that nations that do not observe anti-money laundering standards could face sanctions.

Democrat Alongkon Pholabut said decisive measures were needed to hamper drug traffickers and ultimately stem the practice.

Thailand had been attempting to push for such a law, a draft of which was being studied by the Council of State said the Phet Buri MP.

The opposition-sponsored draft has a greater scope to include not only drugs money but also other economic crimes, not least corruption among politicians.

The thrust of such a law was to monitor money transfers or suspicious business operations. It would require the individuals involved to declare the origin of the money, its destination and how it would be spent.

Aspects of the bill may impinge on individual rights, he said, but the common good was more important.

Justice Minister Chaloem Yubamrung cautioned that such a measure needed careful consideration since it would have a direct effect on the rights of an individual.

The American accusation had been made for the past 50 years and was not a judgment but a reflection of suspicion, he said.

Efforts to step up measures against trafficking had been undermined by a lack of funds he said. The police needed a secret budget because the 30-40 million baht now being allocated was insufficient.

Senator Phichai Watsanasong said the US had not accused Thailand of being a narcotics production and trading centre but a route along the money-laundering trail.

People had to accept the activity existed and that Thailand had been working to put together an effective money-laundering bill.

Mr Phichai said such measures could cover corruption including vote-buying by parliamentary candidates, because people would have to state the purpose of a money transfer.

Counter Corruption Commission secretary-general Prasit Damrongchai said statutory measures against money-laundering would benefit his work. The measures, he said, should also cover money transferred through banks for bribes and tax evasion.

Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said Washington should look at its own part in the equation because orders for drugs originated in the US, and chemicals for the manufacture of heroin also came from overseas.

Thai-US relations are good, he said, and the issue should have been discussed rather than aired "in this manner", he said. "I think that sometimes the US is too used to being such a big country. They should look at the past and see what good cooperation we have been giving them," Mr Thaksin said.

Banhan Meets U.S. President at Reception

BK2510042695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha met the American president and leaders of other countries at a reception at the New York Public Library on Sunday night.

Mr Banhan, who is among representatives of UN member countries in New York to celebrate the world body's 50th anniversary, said he shook hands with President Bill Clinton and his wife and they chatted for about five minutes.

He said Mr Clinton apologised for never having been to Thailand, which he wanted to visit but couldn't because there was so little time. The same was true of Mrs Clinton.

"He told me we'd meet again at the Asia-Pacific Economic Council [as published] meeting in Osaka. I told him Thai-US relations were firmly established, and the two countries understood each other well, but there were still problems such as the double taxation," he said.

He also met the leaders of various Asian, African and European countries.

"Many leaders, such as the president of Micronesia, came up to congratulate me for Thailand's prosperity and fast-growing economy," he said.

"The Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, shook hands with me as well. Unfortunately I didn't have a chance to talk to Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, because he was too far away."

Mr Banhan met nearly all the leaders of countries which are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto.

He said the South Korean president expressed support for Thailand's hosting of the Asian-European conference in March, and that South Korea would take part.

On Monday morning Banhan and his entourage went on an excursion around Manhattan on a yacht, the Highlander, as guests of the Forbes family.

At noon Banhan met Indonesian President Suharto at the UN building for about 50 minutes.

In the afternoon he paid a courtesy call on Chinese President Jiang Zemin at the head quarters of the Chemical Bank.

Thaksin Renews Call for Cabinet Reshuffle

BK2510060495 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Oct 95 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat yesterday renewed his call for Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha to "look beyond party politics" and "uphold the country's national interest" by replacing certain Cabinet ministers with competent people.

Thaksin said it was time Banhan solved the government's image problem by removing Cabinet members with questionable backgrounds and replacing them with well-qualified people, who could also be non-politicians

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Thaksin, Phalang Tham Party leader, insisted that a Cabinet shake-up should be carried out as soon as the prime minister returns from his visit to the United States.

"The prime minister should look beyond party politics and uphold the country's national interests," Thaksin said. "The country needs a good government more than political parties need to safeguard their self-interests."

The deputy premier was commenting on a remark by Cabinet secretary-general Witsanu Khrua-ngam that members of Chuan Likphai's Cabinet fared generally better than the current ministers in terms of efficiency in handling state affairs.

Earlier this month, Thaksin urged Banhan to consider reshuffling the Cabinet, but he backed down after being reprimanded by the prime minister, who said he saw no need for change in the foreseeable future. Banhan has said there will be no Cabinet shuffle, at least not until Parliament reconvenes next March.

"I don't think Cabinet members should be allowed to stay in office for too long," Thaksin said. "The prime minister should tackle the present problems as soon as he returns from his trip to the United States later this week," the deputy prime minister said.

He suggested that candidates to replace some of the current ministers need not be members of a coalition government party as the Constitution allows non-politicians to take Cabinet posts.

"If we cannot find competent people among government party members, we should look for well-qualified outsiders," Thaksin said.

The Phalang Tham leader said the party would be prepared to cooperate with the prime minister if he decided on a reshuffle.

"Although the majority of current Cabinet members are doing their job well, the overall image of the government is not very good," he said. "I'm the kind of person who always stands up for the truth. I always speak my mind."

Banhan told reporters in the US a few days ago he may consider looking for someone to replace him as interior minister. Banhan has doubled as interior minister for almost three months since the government came to power because the divisive Chat Thai Party could not agree on another candidate for the post.

Industry Minister Chaiwat Sinsuwong also of the Phalang Tham Party, said yesterday the prime minister should consider reshuffling the Cabinet after assessing the performance of the government during its first three months in office.

"The government should also take into consideration public criticism of some Cabinet members," Chaiwat said.

Some Chat Thai Party members have also asked Banhan to consider a shakeup, citing the image problem of several Chat Thai ministers, such as Deputy Finance Minister Newin Chitchop, who was suspected of alleged vote-buying in the July general election.

Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen, who is among the likely candidates for the ministry's top job if Banhan decides to relinquish the post, said he has heard nothing about the prime minister's plans.

"If he still cannot find the right candidate for the job, chances are he may continue to double as interior minister for some time to come," Suchat said.

Deputy Prime Minister Sombun Rahong, who is acting prime minister in Banhan's absence, declined to comment on Thaksin's call for a Cabinet shakeup.

"If I commented on it and my ideas don't agree with the prime minister's, I could be reprimanded," he said.

However, Sombun said he believes Banhan will call a meeting of coalition leaders to discuss the possibility of a reshuffle. "The prime minister will have time to think over what to do while on the overseas trip."

Move To Finance Mekong Projects Welcomed

BK2510064195 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Oct 95 p A2

[Report by Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Asian Development Bank [ADB] welcomes Thailand's initiative to help finance transport network projects in the Mekong sub-region, its programme director said yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan will discuss next month how to cooperate with ADB officials when he attends the fifth ministerial conference of the six Mekong River states in Manila, sponsored by the Bank. The six countries are Burma, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand.

Thailand's so-called Neighbouring Fund was set up during former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's administration but has been revived during the present administration.

Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai raised this proposal with Vietnam during his visit in August and stressed that the government wants to help finance Route 9 — linking Thailand's Mukdahan and Laos' Savannakhet to the Vietnamese eastern port of Danang in South China Sea — which is part of three prioritized routes covered by the East-West Corridor projects.

The assessment study on economic, social and financial aspects of these subregional projects will be completed by March next year. France has financed the study through ADB.

"We welcome this, irrespective of whether the contribution is US$10 million or smaller. It really shows the goodwill of Thai government," programme director Noritada Morita told THE NATION.

Morita said no single country can monopolize the financing of these subregional transportation projects because of the huge investment which will cost the six countries up to US$10 billion. So far 34 prioritized transport projects have been identified by the six governments.

Asked about the financing option for Route 9, he said Thailand's fund could be used to finance certain road sectors while other sources of finance could be used to finance other sectors.

The fifth ADB-sponsored conference, scheduled for Nov 9-10, will discus the financial arrangements for the prioritized transport and energy projects. The Manila conference will also try to move the urgently-needed regional development project into the implementation stage.

"We need a combination of external funding from the private sector and governments," Morita said.

He added that the Bank will also discuss with respective governments the future of seven identified economic sectors. These are transport, energy, tourism, trade and investment, telecommunications, human resource development and the environment.

"We also need reconfirmation from the governments as to what they want the Bank to do next," said Morita, who was the key proponent in matching the urgent needs of each Mekong state with feasible sub- regional projects.

This meeting will also reaffirm the governmental support for the newly-set up working groups on energy and the proposed working groups on human resource development, trade and investment and environment.

The first meeting of the working group on trade and investment will be held in Thailand in December.

During yesterday's Bangkok conference of the Greater Mekong Sub- regional Growth Summit (GMS), participants from the six countries reviewed the progress of their cooperation under ADB sponsorship. Representatives of the private sector in the GMS also participated.

According to Morita, who was the invited speaker, the conference provides the chance for dialogue between governments and the private sector to update information and hear about each other's constraints, while strengthening cooperation with ADB and moving the identified projects into implementation.

Meanwhile, former deputy prime minister Dr Saphachai Phanitchaphak urged the Bank and the government to come up with clear-cut agreements on the software side of the sub-regional cooperation to provide confidence for the private sector on investment.

"The private sector has not been as much involved in this cooperation as we had expected it to be," Suphachai told the conference.

Dr Suphachai said Thailand has been working closely with Japan under the framework of the Asean economic ministers' meetings and Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on the software side to help integrate the Indochinese states into the mainstream of Asean.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Highly Appreciates UN Assistance

BK2410163495 Hanoi VNA in English
1512 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VNA Oct.24 — Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet spoke highly of UN effective assistance to Vietnam for many years now as well as significant contributions of UN resident representatives in Vietnam to the Vietnamese people's prosperity.

This came at a reception here today of UN representatives in Hanoi on tour of the 50th UN anniversary. The Vietnamese leader said he hoped that on its way of advancement, Vietnam has received now as before effective support and assistance from all UN agencies.

Taking the floor, UN Resident Coordinator Roy D. Morey said that UN agencies have for many years established close relations with relevant offices and ministries of Vietnam. The Vietnamese Government's approval last June of "a strategic framework for cooperation with UN system" was a manifestation of this relationship.

He said that in order to make full use of UN aid and funds, an annual meeting should be held under the chairmanship of the Vietnamese Government to review and assess the implementation of UN funds and assistance.

This evening, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, who is also the president of the Vietnam National Committee for UN celebrations, hosted a dinner at the government guest house to mark the UN 50th anniversary.

His guests included Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, UN Resident Coordinator in Vietnam R.D. Morey and diplomatic corps.

F.M. Nguyen Manh Cam expressed his satisfaction at the cooperative relations between Vietnam and UN agencies and said "Vietnam highly values credits offered by international financial and monetary institutions to Vietnam to boost economic and social infrastructure development.

UN 50th Anniversary Celebrations Take Place

BK2410162195 Hanoi VNA in English
1431 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 24 — The 50th anniversry of the United Nations has been celebrated in Vietnam with a grand meeting held here this morning jointly by the Vietnam National Committee for UN 50th anniversary celebrations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hanoi People's Committee.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy· Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien stressed "Vietnam will do all it can for progressive development of the United Nations, for peace, development, national independence, justice and equality."

He also expressed thanks to the UN agencies for their effective assistance to Vietnam in its national construction and development over the past years, including their programmes of social and humanitarian significance such as expanded immunization, primary health care, education, job creation, family planning, rural development, technical support, etc.

The speaker also expressed his hope that the cooperation between Vietnam and the UN agencies would be constantly broadened and developed.

Among those present at the function were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, chairman of the sponsored committee, Truong My Hoa, president of the Vietnam Women's Union, and Mr. D. Morey, coordinator of UN programmes and other UN resident representatives in Hanoi.

Agreement on Double Taxation Signed With Japan

BK2410152495 Hanoi VNA in English
1431 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA October 24 — An agreement on double-taxation avoidance and prevention of income-tax evasion was signed here today between Vietnam and Japan.

Signatories were Finance Minister Ho on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, and Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Katsunari Suzuki on behalf of the Japanese Government. The signing was witnessed by officials of the government's office, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance, and Japanese Embassy in Vietnam.

The signing of this agreement has an important significance in the promotion of the bilateral trading ties, economic cooperation and investment, thus creating favourable conditions for the increase of Japan's capital and technological investment in Vietnam. The agreement is the 87th of its kind to date signed by Vietnam with other countries.

First U.S. Software Firm Opens for Business

BK2410134795 Hanoi VNA in English
1224 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 24 — Leading American firm, Oracle, engaging in software and service supply for information management system, has begun operating in vietnam under a licence granted by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.

The firm, the first of its kind operating in Vietnam, will transfer latest information technology to relevant Vietnamese companies and groups and help them to apply information management methods suitable or the country's economic development.

Oracle plans to establish two open system centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to provide free services to domestic organisations wishing to conduct technical surveys or make assessments of software

Lao Newspaper Delegation Visits Hanoi

BK2510084495 Hanoi VNA in English
0642 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 25—A delegation from the VIENTIANE MAI (New Vientiane) newspaper led by its deputy editor-in- chief, Mr. Phouttha Khampavoong, paying a week long visit to Hanoi at the invitation of the editorial board of the daily HANOI MOI (New Hanoi) ended today.

The delegation was warmly received by Mr. Ho Xuan Son, member of the Hanoi Party Committee and editor-in-chief of HANOI MOI, and many correspondents and workers of the paper. The two sides exchanged press experience and informed each other of common situation as well as the activities of the press circle in their respective capitals. They also expressed their wish to further consolidate and boost the friendly and cooperative ties between the two papers.

While in Vietnam, the Lao guests toured the historic Ba Dinh Square, the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the Hanoi Journalists' Association, the Ho Tay aquatic product exploitation company, the Ngoc Ha paper factory, and the coal-mining area of Quang Ninh and Ha Long city.

The delegation was received by Mr. Luu Minh Tri, permanent member of the Hanoi party committee and head of the Board for Information and Training, who introduced the guests to some features of the capital Hanoi in the renovation cause and ongoing national construction.

Government Offers Rice Gift to Palestine

BK2410164395 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 24 — The Vietnamese Government has decided to offer 1,000 tonnes of rice as gift to the Palestinian people to help them overcome the present difficulties.

This was made known today to Mr. Atief Abdul Karim, charge d'affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Hanoi.

National Assembly 24 Oct Proceedings Reported

BK2410134995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, 24 October, National Assembly deputies continued their work at the conference hall to adopt various parts of the revised draft Civil Code. National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu chaired the session.

National Assembly deputies contributed more ideas for the contents of various chapters and articles of the law. In part two, the deputies focused their attention on the section dealing with ownership rights, using proprietorship rights, asset appraisal rights, forms of ownership, and establishment and protection of ownership rights. In part three, which dealt with civilian obligations and civilian contracts, the deputies contributed their ideas on carrying out civilian duties and obligations, transfer of requirements and obligations, and termination of civilian obligations and contracts.

Tomorrow, National Assembly deputies will continue their work at the conference hall to adopt more articles on ownership rights and other chapters and articles of the Civil Code.

National Assembly Issues Communique No. 18

BK2410165195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Communique No. 18 issued by Vietnamese National Assembly in Hanoi on 24 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the National Assembly held a plenary session under the chairmanship of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu to adopt various parts of the draft Civil Code.

A total of 66 deputies expressed their ideas. They are Nguyen Van Thuan of Binh Thuan Province; Pham Su, Tran Du Lich, Nguyen Van Hanh, and Pham Quang Du of Ho Chi Minh City; Phan Thi Tin of Dong Thap, Tran Quoc Thai of Ha Tinh; Pham Xuan Dinh, Nguyen Thi Kim Lien, and Phan Tan Tien of Can Tho; Nguyen Xuan Thuyet, Dinh Van Hieu, and Phung Van Toan of Vinh Phu; Nguyen Minh Hung and Nguyen Thi Lien of An Giang; Do Quoc Hung, Doan Vung Tau, Le Trung Thanh, Nguyen Quoc Thuoc, and Nguyen Nhu Vy of Nghe An; Hoang Thua of Ha Giang, Do Quoc Thang of Lao Cai; Nguyen Thanh Nguyen, Nguyen Van Thanh, and Vo Thi Thang of Long An; Tran Van Cua and Pham Phuong Thao of Minh Hai; Lam Phuc Co Yen Bai, Hoang Duc Hi of Tuyen Quang, Trinh Son Mao and Dang Nhat Minh of Thanh Hoa, Nguyen Dinh Ngo and Nguyen Khoa Kim Boi of Thua Thien-Hue, Nguyen Van Kha and Dang Khoi of Nam Ha; Dang Van Luy, Trinh Duc Tam, and Nguyen Thi Nhung of Ha Bac; Truong Thi Khue of Quang Tri; Bui Ngoc Thanh, Duong Cong Suu, Hoang Thi Bich Ly of Lang Son; Vu Thi Ngoc Dau and Nguyen Thu Ha of Thai Binh, Ha Xuan Tri of Hai Hung; Nguyen Don, Mai Thuc Lan, and Hoang Minh Thang of Quang Nam-Danang; Lo Thi Luyen of Son La; Tran Dinh Chung, Buddhist Venerable Kim Cuong Tu, and Vu Dinh Cu of Hanoi; Tran Chu Toan of Gia Lai, Duong Tan De of Vinh Long, Ha Dang of Phu Yen, Pham Nhan Tan of Hai Hung, Nguyen Thi Man of Haiphong, Lo Van Inh of Lai Chau, Tang Nghia of Ha Tinh, Trieu Thi Nhay of Yen Bai, Nguyen Binh Giang and Nguyen Huyet Hoe of Quang Ninh, Tran Tri Lien of Kien Giang, Hoang Dinh Cau of Ha Tay, Nguyen Van Linh of Song Be; Pham Hung, Tran Thi Mien, and Pham Nguyen Tan of Hai Hung; and Tran Hoa of Quang Binh.

The National Assembly deputies contributed more ideas to various chapters, and proposed a revision to some contents and phrases in part two of the draft Civil Code which dealt with assets and ownership rights. This part includes chapter one on the general clauses, chapter two on types of assets, chapter three on contents of ownership rights, chapter four on forms of ownership, chapter five on the establishment and termination of ownership rights, chapter six on protection of ownership rights, and chapter seven on other stipulations concerning ownership rights.

After reviewing issues related to assets and ownership rights in part two, the deputies expressed ideas on certain chapters of part three, dealing with civilian obligations and civilian contracts.

Justice Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc, on behalf of the committee for studying and revising the draft Civil Code, presented tasks on soliciting ideas and revising the draft law based on the National Assembly deputies' viewpoints.

Tomorrow, the National Assembly will continue its work at the conference hall.

Australia

Keating To Seek ICJ Support Against France

BK2410083495 Hong Kong AFP in English
0804 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canberra, Oct 24 (AFP) — Australia will ask the International Court of Justice [ICJ] to declare nuclear weapons illegal as part of a strategy to build on global anger over French nuclear testing, Prime Minister Paul Keating said Tuesday.

Keating outlined his plan following an attack by French President Jacques Chirac on Australian leaders over the strength of their anti-nuclear protest campaign.

In a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Keating said: "I feel we can turn the global outrage at French and Chinese testing into something broader and more ambitious - I mean the creation of a world totally free of nuclear weapons.

"Unless we take action now, the nuclear competition that characterised most of the second half of this century will very likely return and probably in a much more unstable and multipolar form."

Chirac said in New York, where he was attending UN anniversary celebrations, that Australian protest had "excessive." [sentence as received]

He told CNN television that the French have a saying: "When it is excessive, it is nothing. And that is how I felt."

Chirac attacked Australia's leadership — without mentioning names — saying "a leader has to be a leader and not a follower," adding: "I think the leaders over there were more followers than leaders."

Chirac's decision to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific nuclear sparked international anger. The tests started in September.

In the latest anti-French protest here, a car carrying a mock nuclear missile and stuffed kangaroo wearing a gas mask, was driven through a security barrier and into the grounds of the French embassy.

The car was stopped and surrounded by security men, police were called and ordered the three demonstrators to leave. They did so without further incident.

Keating meantime told diplomats and foreign affairs specialists that the world had to extricate itself from the circular argument that "we need nuclear weapons because we have nuclear weapons".

While Australia was only a medium weight power, it had demonstrated on issues such as Cambodia and the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum that it had the capacity to create coalitions that could make a real difference.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans would travel to The Hague to argue at the world court that nuclear weapons should be declared illegal, as part of a case brought by the World Health Organisation, Keating said.

He added that substantial resources would be set aside for expediting negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty and he would seek the establishment of an international group of eminent persons to report to the United Nations on the practical steps needed to achieve the goal.

Keating's statement followed criticism here of Australian Governor-General Bill Hayden for dropping condemnation of French nuclear testing from his speech in New York to the United Nations.

Conservative opposition foreign affairs spokesman Alexander Downer said Australia was embarrassed by Hayden's failure to make a simple and direct statement outlining Australia's opposition to nuclear testing.

Hayden's written speech condemned nuclear testing, but the condemnation was at the end of the speech and he never got to it because of time constraints.

Downer blamed Evans for failing to ensure the message was delivered, adding: "I'm sure that President Chirac will be in the back of his mind chuckling about the ways Australia has mucked up this particular presentation.

Evans Dismisses Chirac's Remark on Excess

BK2510031595 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has rejected President Jacques Chirac's claim that Australia has been excessive in its response to nuclear testing in the South Pacific. President Chirac, during an interview on American television, also accused the Australian Government of following rather than leading public opinion in its protest against the tests.

Senator Evans says his government has been consistent in its response to the tests and its vocal opposition has produced results.

[Begin Evans recording] As a result of that we got the French commitment now to a zero threshold comprehensive test ban treaty, and now we have got France signing up, with the United States and Britain as well, to the Treaty of Rarotonga, which were two very important policy aims, and that has all been a result of the pressure that has built up. [end recording]

ASIO Warns of Future Security Risks

BK2510022795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Security Intelligence Organization, ASIO, says it is concerned about a trend by some countries to steal Australian scientific and technological knowledge. (Louise Axley) says that in a report to federal parliament, ASIO also warned about right wing militia groups such as a group blamed in the United States for a bombing in Oklahoma City in April.

[Begin (Axley) recording] ASIO says that at the same as that bombing, it was involved in a joint investigation into the secret Christian, extremist paramilitary group, the Loyal Regiment of Guardians, which had members inside the Defense Department. ASIO also identifies a trend for religous extremism to grow and for a renewed use of hijacking in international terrorism.

It says it is preparing for Australia to host the Olympic Games by liaising with other host nations. It refused entry to 19 people wanting to visit Australia last year on grounds including involvement in terrorism, spying, and attempts to obtain weapons of mass destruction. [end recording]

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